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Saipan Tribune

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DOF: IPI's 15 days to pay fee ending today

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The 15 days that the Department of Finance gave Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to pay the balance of its $15-million casino license fee renewal is drawing to a close.

IPI's deadline to pay its renewal fee was last Aug. 12, 2019. So far, it has already paid $5 million. Based on the 15-day deadline that Finance gave IPI, that means the 15 days will end today, Aug. 27, 2019.

Saipan Tribune confirmed late last night that Finance Secretary David Atalig has not received any payment

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Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Miranda Manglona presides over a meeting yesterday at the CUC conference room. At the meeting, CUC chief financial officer Greg P. Cruz reported that CUC is at an operating loss of $17 million. Cruz also disclosed that they are seeing improvements from collections, billings, and demands from May to July this year.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CUC operating loss at $17M

» CUC won't hit projected $100M revenue this year
» Improvements seen in collections, billings, demands

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is operating at a loss of $17 million and will fail to hit its projected $100 million revenue this year, according to CUC chief financial officer Greg P. Cruz yesterday.

There is still some good news, though. In his report to the board during yesterday's meeting, Cruz said they are now starting to see improvements in collections, billings, and demands from May to July this year.

Based on what he has seen, Cruz does not expect CUC to exceed its

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DESPITE YUTU DESTRUCTION

NMC enrollment up 12%

NMC began its fall 2019 semester Monday with one of its highest enrollments in years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

Despite the destruction the Northern Marianas College campus sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu last October, the college still saw a significant increase in its student enrollment number this year.

The college reported a 12% increase to 1,276 students in enrolment numbers this fall 2019 semester compared to the same time a year ago.

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Bill OKs private hospitals in villages

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

After hours of talks and amendments, a bill that would ultimately allow hospitals to operate in village commercial zones passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday.

With a vote of 9-7, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 21-10 passed the delegation and heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' desk for enactment.

This bill essentially allows private

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Hong Kong police drew their guns and fire a warning shot at protesters.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

SIS students check out Peru in immersion program

The Saipan International School delegation have their picture taken at the Machu Picchu, known as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School students have their picture taken with staff of Peru's Children's Hospital, where they entertained the children and medical staff with the traditional Korean "Flower Dance" and many played songs with ukuleles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leaving the island during the summer is always a big deal for students living on Saipan. Many of them take advantage of the free time to return to their country of origin, which include places like Korea, Japan, China, and the Philippines. As always, traveling to any of these popular Asian destinations requires a lot of planning to ensure a space on crowded planes.

Saipan International School students who make up the group "Destino Peru" had a different plan. They too left the island for a four-week trip, but they packed their bags to visit a whole other continent: South America.

The 10 students, between grades nine and 10 went to Peru for 26 days. Their itinerary included five cities: Lima, Cuzco, Puno, Arequipa, and Nazca. They started their journey in the capital city and bustling metropolis of Lima, continued to river rafting and experienced zipline adventures in the valley of Lunahuana. Then they continued their journey to Cuzco, where the students trekked the Incan ruins of Ollantaytambo, Sacsayhuaman, and Machu Picchu, listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

In Puno, the students visited Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in all of South America and, at 12,500 feet above sea level, one of the highest in the world.

In Arequipa, the students ventured to Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world at a depth of 10,730 feet, where they had the opportunity to glimpse the endangered Andean condor in its natural habitat.

The students also got a chance to look at the mysterious Nazca drawings—a series of markings on the base of the desert that stretch over 80 miles and form different animal figures.

They closed their trip by sandboarding in the desert of Paracas.

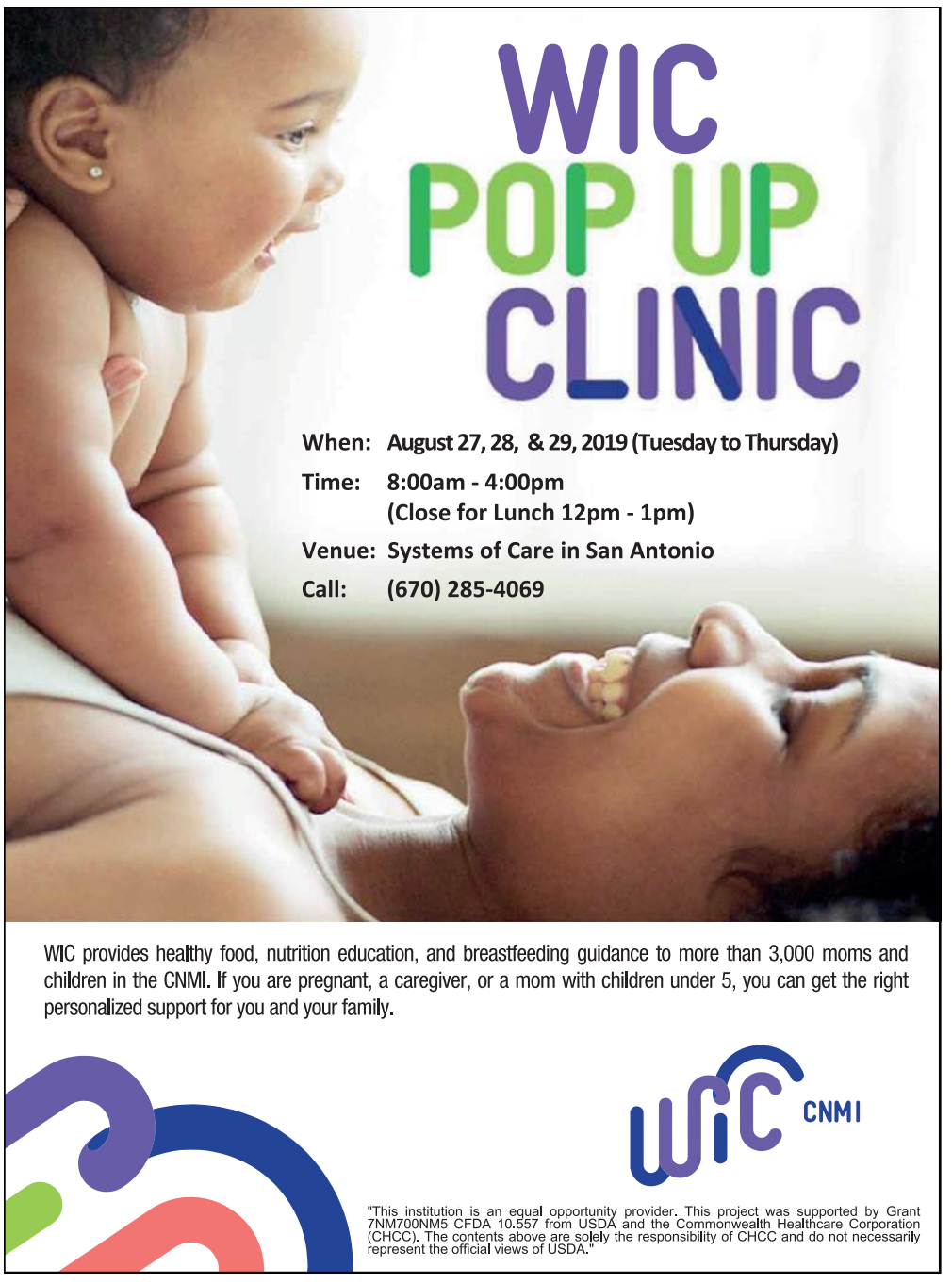
It wasn't all fun, though. The students also visited Peru's Children's Hospital, where they entertained the children and medical staff with the traditional Korean "Flower Dance" and many played songs with ukuleles. They also visited the Albergue Cottolengo where they worked with disabled individual's ages 6 to 30. At the Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the SIS students helped prepare and serving the food for more than 120 elderly unprivileged people. The students also entertained them with various musical performances.

They also had the opportunity to attend the Andino Cusco International School of Austergate and the American School Prescott in Arequipa.

This is the eighth group from Saipan International School that have traveled to Peru. The school has always placed a strong emphasis on the importance of learning about different cultures, their traditions, peoples and languages. With knowledge comes appreciation and respect of these cultures, which is a vital part of Saipan International School's philosophy.

Destino Peru, founded by Mili Saiki in 2005, is a language immersion opportunity for upperclassmen taking Spanish. Since then, the trip has evolved, shifting its focus from language-learning to the exploration of the cultural, historical, natural, and economic reality of Peru. The result is a learning adventure that also inculcates responsible traveling. Over the years, visiting students have given their time and energy to a number of community programs and service providers, including children's hospitals, orphanages, and nursing homes.

More than 200 students from SIS have already visited Peru under the program. ***(PR)***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"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

The Saipan International School students have their picture taken before embarking on a zipline adventure in the valley of Lunahuana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Torres seeks USCIS' support to prevent economic crisis

Advocating for the many businesses and CW-1 workers in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is requesting U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for an expedited processing of CW-1 applications so that businesses can continue recovery and maintain operations, while receiving the authorization to have their workers remain in the CNMI.

Torres sent a letter to acting USCIS director Kenneth Cuccinelli, underscoring the partnership between the CNMI and its federal partners toward an efficient CW program that promotes economic growth, local business success, and U.S. workforce development, while also keeping families together. He noted that significant issues within the new CW application process have caused confusion on the federal processing side for law-abiding businesses.

"I am writing in the interest of our partnership and shared goals toward the efficacy of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program. Currently, significant issues exist with the Interim Final Rules promulgated under the [NMI US Workforce Act of 2018] that are threatening to cripple our economy and counteract the gains we have made in U.S. citizen employment. Specifically, due to the newly implemented four-step process in obtaining a temporary labor certification—a necessary component in a CW1 petition—CNMI employers are experiencing varying complications, unclear instructions, and extended application processing times," the governor stated in his letter.

While the CNMI government has made every effort to assist in the implementation of the new federal regulations, many employers report that they will not receive their temporary labor certifications in time to process their CW-1 petitions with USCIS prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Torres emphasized that this will inevitably result in late CW-1 petitions and the forced departure of a large number of the CNMI's workforce at the end of this fiscal year—an issue that the administration is working hard to prevent. He added that this forced departure will have a negative effect on U.S. workers as well.

"The loss of these workers presents a dire situation for our employers, our economy, and the U.S. workers who work alongside CW-1 visa holders. In fact, in consideration of this imminent threat to the CNMI workforce, employers are considering closing businesses or limiting operations, which only contributes to the emergency state of the CNMI's economy as we are still recovering from the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu. Clearly, this situation undermines the overall purpose and legislative intent of the CW program."

Proposing a solution, Torres requested for a dialogue with USCIS on the options available to provide CNMI employers expedited processing of their CW-1 applications so that they may receive the necessary authorization to have their workers remain in the CNMI.

The governor also requested USCIS for assistance in providing for an adjudication process in this first application period under the new law that works with employers to remedy deficiencies within their applications to correct any misinterpretation of the new requirements or a delay in receipt of their required U.S. DOL documentation.

"The new processes implemented for the CW-1 program are complex, and CNMI DOL has received numerous complaints from businesses," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

"It is the case that, despite the statutory requirement for employer training on the new permitting process, no on-island training on these new requirements has been offered. CNMI DOL and the Office of the Governor have been working very hard to address our businesses and employers' concerns by communicating consistently with our federal partners," she added.

Because of the present circumstances and the limited outreach on the new application procedures, Torres also asked USCIS to provide consideration for employers to correct deficiencies in their CW petitions and not proceed immediately to issuing a denial of the petition. The governor said that without some agreement on the deficiencies of this current application process, many of the workers the CNMI relies upon to maintain economic activity will depart for an undetermined period of time.

"This loss of workers will result in the furlough or unemployment of U.S. workers in our fragile economy. This is ultimately the outcome we are seeking to avoid. Our government has worked very hard over the last few years to sustainably grow our economy by ensuring business success and the protection of U.S. workers. We also worked very hard to keep families together."

Torres and the CNMI Department of Labor has had several meetings with businesses, concerned U.S. employees and CW workers, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce over the last few months on solutions.

"We all agreed that the solutions to this problem is for USCIS to provide clarity on the current CW application process for our businesses and our workers. At a time when the CNMI is still in recovery, we are working with our federal partners to avoid another crisis. It is our hope that our work with USCIS and US-DOL will save our economy, protect our U.S. workers, and keep families together. At the end of the day, this work will always be for every single person who calls these islands home." ***(PR)***

Auditions for FOA production

The Friends of the Arts is inviting the public who want to become a member of its production of *The Jungle Book* to an audition being held on Aug. 30, from 5:30pm to 8pm, at the HR Support CNMI office on the second floor or the JET Realty Building, above J's Restaurant in Gualo Rai. The play has many parts, including adult and young people's roles.

No preparation for the audition is necessary. Readings will be from the script. We are looking for a cast of 20 and a backstage crew. If you are interested in either performing in the play or assisting as part of the stage crew come to the audition. Whether an experienced or aspiring actor or actress, come and audition for a role. This is not a musical.

The Jungle Book will be staged on Oct. 18-19 and 25-26.

If you would like to be involved but cannot make this audition text/call Susan 287-2225. ***(PR)***

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NMTI picks Koblerville as future site

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute is eyeing Koblerville as a future site for a planned state-of-the-art training facility. The total lot area is 15,000 square meters, is near the Koblerville Gymnasium, and is surrounded by villages, which means it would be accessible to students.

According to NMTI board chair John Gonzales, the Department of Public Lands has designated that particular area in Koblerville to NMTI and they are hoping DPL would also designate the surrounding area to the trade school.

"We are excited about it," he said, "and we are hoping that the surrounding area totaling 20,000 square meters will also be given to us in anticipation of the comprehensive facilities that we would need."

He said NMTI will not only need classrooms and the offices for the operations of the school but also areas that will allow it to provide ancillary services such as cafeteria, library, and an administration office.

The Koblerville site will also have dormitories for students coming from Tinian and Rota.

"A school dormitory is very essential as we believe it is better to bring the students over here instead of sending instructors to Tinian and Rota," said NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres. "This will be beneficial to the students coming from those islands."

She said it has been determined that building a dormitory in the NMTI campus is important to welcome students who are not from Saipan.

McPhetres pointed out that NMTI's Rota facility had a very high drop-off rate.

"We started with 32 students and ended with three graduates," she said.

She said the school looked into this and, with so many factors affecting the attendance of students there, like typhoons, etc., "we had to investigate what happened to best strategize future programs."

Hiring an instructor for Rota is also hard and expensive, she added.

About $6 million is the needed to jumpstart the construction of the Koblerville site and the NMTI board has applied for a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

"…We will start construction when we receive the grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. through the U.S. Housing & Urban Development," Gonzalez said.

McPhetres said she will be meeting with representatives of the Economic Development Administration from Washington, D.C. this week. "So far, they like our proposal but they recommend to add more such as a water tank and I threw in the idea of solar energy and they love the idea. …Aside from the grant, we can also get donations from private companies to help construct the facility…"

BILL

From Page 1

hospitals to operate on village commercial zones, or zones that are generally reserved for leisure establishments due to its close proximity to residential areas.

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Roman Benavente (R-Saipan) and Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted against the legislation.

Rep. Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan) abstained.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (R-Saipan), Reps. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), Luis John "L.J." Castro (R-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), and Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) voted for the legislation, along with delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), author Guerrero, and Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan).

"I know some of the members had major reservations… but the legislation proposes to add hospital-permitted activities under village commercial zones," Rep. John Paul Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. Current Zoning regulations only allow hospitals to operate in either rural or mixed commercial zones.

"…The proposed legislation only proposes to add hospitals as one of the activities that can be allowed [on village commercial zones]," he said. "I support any private company or investor that wishes to build a state-of-the-art hospital, provided that they follow federal standards that our lone hospital has to follow."

Sablan noted that he supported Camacho's floor amendment to have private-owned hospitals comply with federal hospital guidelines such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPPA, and the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, or EMTALA.

Camacho's amendment was further strengthened by a subsidiary amendment offered by Igisomar, which was ultimately adopted and passed.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that the lack of a regulatory body over privately-owned hospitals were a concern. She pointed out that the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. brought up this concern when the delegation's Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations sought public comments.

"I voted against the bill because I reviewed the record of comments submitted to the JGO Committee and the [delegation] chairman and saw that nearly all the testimonies received were opposed, and for good reason," she said in a statement.

According to Rep. Tina Sablan, the Commonwealth Zoning board and the Saipan Mayor's Office opposed the legislation while CHCC had "major" reservations.

"[Zoning] opposed the bill based on their findings of incompatibility and public hearings they conducted with respect to the one prospective investor who wants to establish a hospital in a village district in Precinct 1. Residents who would be directly impacted by that hospital opposed the rezoning and this legislation. The [Saipan mayor] opposed the bill and urged us to defer to [Zoning] and their recommendations. [CHCC] expressed serious reservations about the lack of oversight on private hospitals to ensure compliance with standards of care," she noted.

"The various, and legitimate concerns expressed by all of these stakeholders had to do with increased traffic, noise, air emissions, and pollution," she said, specifying that the pollution referred to hazardous waste, medical waste, and noise pollution.

"As far as we could tell, because there…is no committee report, the one hospital investor we know of is the only one who testified in support of this bill," Sablan noted. "And while proponents of the bill said this isn't legislation tailored for one investor, there is just one investor pushing for it.

"Moreover, this bill would open up all of our villages, in all of our precincts on Saipan, to intensive hospital uses that may not be compatible at all with the residential environment.

"I support healthcare, I support hospitals that meet standards of care and are properly regulated, and I also support zoning that preserves the character and tranquility of village residential life. For all these reasons, I could not in good conscience vote yes to this bill," she added.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), noted that residents themselves are opposed to the bill.

"I voted no because I could not ignore the pleas of the families in the neighborhood whose peace will be affected by operating hospitals in 'out of zone areas' and including the serious concerns raised by CHCC, Zoning, and the mayor's office," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

NMC

From Page 1

In an interview with acting NMC president Frankie Eliptico, he said the enrollment this fall semester is even higher than a year ago in fall 2018, before Super Typhoon Yutu hit.

"Our strong enrollment for this semester demonstrates that more and more students in the CNMI are looking to NMC for their professional growth and development," Eliptico said. "Our staff and faculty have also been working very hard to prepare our campus and to ensure our programs and services continue to meet student needs and expectations…[and] our recruitment team has also done a tremendous job of reaching out to our community."

The increased number reflects the enrollment as of the first day of classes; it may still change as students modify their schedules during the first week of classes.

Because of Super Typhoon Yutu, NMC lost 37 of its 39 classrooms, its cafeteria, bookstore, student, center, and other facilities. Most classes are being held right now in temporary tents built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which was contacted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Public Assistance Program.

In the past 10 months, the college has been working to repair classrooms, offices, and other facilities. "We will be building new facilities with the funds we will receive from FEMA… we have also applied for grants from the Economic Development Administration and other programs," Eliptico said.

CUC

From Page 1

numbers last year.

"We're not [going to] come close to hitting approximately $100 million in revenues. We are definitely spending more," Cruz told board members. He said the CNMI's situation after Super Typhoon Yutu boosted CUC's expenditures this year.

"We are definitely not [going to] hit our revenue projection that we started out with this year," said Cruz, adding that CUC will also not hit the level of revenue generated last year.

Cruz said he is looking at probably falling about 10% below last year's level in actual revenue.

With respect to the "good news," Cruz showed a table showing an upward trend in collections, billings, and even demand, covering the periods May, June, and July this year.

In May, total collections from government, residential, and commercial customers reached $6.6 million. In June, it was at $6.7 million. In July, it's at $8.5 million.

In billings, government, residential, and commercial customers were billed a total of $8.3 million in May, $8.2 million in June, and $8.7 million in July.

The demand for electricity in May was approximately at 22.1 million kilowatt-hour. In June, it was at 23.2 million kWh. In July, it was at 23.6 million Kwh.

On the water side, Cruz said that CUC sold 125.6 million gallons in May, 119.8 million gallons in June, and 128.1 million gallons in July.

"So, we are seeing improvements," he said.

Cruz noted that the only area where they see a downslope in collections, billings, and demand is in the government accounts.

"But if you look at the residential customers [and] at the commercial customers, they are paying their bills, they are using more power, they are buying more water," he said.

As far as hitting the revenue projection, Cruz said there are only two months remaining in the fiscal year, so it's not going to happen.

However, CUC's expenditures have pretty much normalized now, he said. In May, CUC was still catching up with some expenses, he said, but expenses dropped down to about $7 million in the two subsequent months of June and July.

"So I believe it kind of reached the…pre-Yutu conditions to where I don't see us spending more," Cruz said. "We're back to the level where we were before the storm."

DOF

From Page 1

yet to satisfy IPI's remaining obligation.

In an interview with Atalig last week, he told *Saipan Tribune* his office gave the lone casino licensee 14 to 15 days to pay the remainder of its $15-million annual casino license fee renewal, with the countdown starting last Aug. 12, 2019, IPI's statutory deadline.

"My communication is that within 14-15 days, the remaining $10 million will be wired to us, so I am expecting that [this week]," he said.

Atalig also noted that the Commonwealth Casino Commission gave IPI a letter of default, asking it to resolve the issue within 15 days. He did not specify when the letter was sent.

"…I don't know which timeframe they would use but, from my point of view, they have that 15 days after Aug. 12, 2019, to pay or they are in default," Atalig said.

He confirmed in a previous statement that the lone casino licensee wired only $5 million of its $15 million annual casino license renewal fee.

In an earlier interview, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said his office and the Office of the Attorney General are already discussing what actions to take because of the delay in payment.

"Wherever you go, there are procedures that need to be followed and this is [an example of a procedure]; they [IPI] are delinquent in their payment, and so there are going to be procedures that needs to be done in order for us to…give them due process," he said.

IPI's deadline to pay their annual casino license renewal fee was Aug. 12, 2019.

According to the Casino License Agreement, which the CCC enforces, delayed, partial, or the non-payment of "…any amount due and payable" within the casino license agreement constitutes a breach in the CLA.

A breach in the CLA can result in the suspension or even revocation of the casino license.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Constitutional convention proposed

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) wants to know if Commonwealth voters want to amend the CNMI Constitution and is proposing to put that on the ballot in next year's election.

Igisomar wants to ask this through his Senate Legislative Initiative 21-07, which, if it garners enough support in the next ballot, then a constitutional convention, a body that would review and propose amendments to the CNMI Constitution, would be created.

The senator previously introduced Senate Bill 21-18, which also sought to ask through ballot if the creation of a constitutional convention was desired. However, it was shelved at the Aug. 21, 2019, Senate session because of the introduction of SLI 21-07 at their Aug. 14, 2019, Senate session.

Igisomar explained to *Saipan Tribune* that a constitutional convention is a collection of individuals who are voted on by the people to review the CNMI Constitution and then propose amendments to it.

"Once they [constitutional convention members] come together after being elected by the people and they assemble themselves, they go through the constitutional convention to review the CNMI Constitution. Once they come up with a final decision on what to do, then they will present that to the people to vote on the amendments," he said.

Igisomar added that the proposed amendments may be several extensive ones or even short, minute ones.

"…There have been a lot of questions in our constitution…that needs to be changed because of time. A lot of new things have occurred in our society, so our constitution needs to be amended in order to accommodate these issues," Igisomar said. "One key issue for me, personally, is the Northern Marianas descent [land alienation] issue."

The senator noted that land issues span across two articles of the CNMI Constitution: Article XI and Article XII. That means any move to amend the constitution through legislative initiatives would require two separate initiatives since only one article may be amended per initiative.

There are three ways to amend the CNMI Constitution: through a legislative initiative, a constitutional convention, and an initiative petition. The latter requires to be signed by at least 20% of the persons qualified to vote in the CNMI before being able to be put up for voting at the next election.

Man fined $25 for littering

A man on Saipan has been fined $25 after being caught illegally dumping trash in Koblerville.

A litter control apprehending officer from the Saipan Mayor's Office cited a person last July 26, 2019, for littering on government property in Koblerville during field operation.

While the litter control officer was going around Koblerville, he saw the individual offloading debris from his vehicle. Initial investigation of the debris included construction and demolition waste including lumber materials.

As a result of the illegal activity, the individual was issued a fine of $25. The violation was determined to be base simple violation; it was the violators' first violation and the violation was not committed within any sensitive areas. The litter control officer instructed the violator to immediately remove the debris from the site and dispose of it properly at the Marpi landfill.

The Office of the Saipan Mayor is one of the government agencies mandated to enforce the Litter Control Law. The other enforcing agencies are the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Zoning Office, the Department of Public Lands, and the Department of Public Safety. ***(PR)***

USCIS issues guidance on discretionary employment authorization for parolees

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to address its discretion to grant employment authorization to foreign nationals who are paroled into the United States, including those who are otherwise inadmissible.

Certain foreign nationals may be paroled into the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parolees are not entitled to employment authorization solely because they are paroled into the United States, but instead must establish eligibility and apply for employment authorization. USCIS will only consider employment authorization for parolees when, based on the facts and circumstances of each individual case, USCIS finds that a favorable exercise of discretion is warranted.

Cuccinelli

"Directly addressing loopholes that encourage the exploitation of our immigration system is the only way forward," said acting USCIS director Ken Cuccinelli. "Responsible stewardship of our discretionary authorities enhances our ability to provide relief to those who lawfully qualify for it. With that in mind, USCIS is taking action within its discretionary authority by only granting employment authorization to parolees after consideration of all relevant factors on a case-by-case basis. This decision is in response to the national emergency at the southern border where foreign nationals are entering the United States illegally, as well as based on a review of USCIS adjudicatory practices over the past few years."

USCIS is taking action to strengthen affected programs, such as parole, within its discretionary authority. Through this update, USCIS is providing adjudicators with guidance specific to parole-based employment authorization focusing on officers' discretion and responsibility to grant employment authorization only after careful consideration of all relevant factors on a case-by-case basis. The policy update aligns USCIS' guidelines for issuing discretionary employment authorization based on parole with current immigration enforcement priorities.

USCIS continues to adjudicate all petitions, applications, and requests fairly, efficiently, and effectively on a case-by-case basis to determine if they meet all standards required under applicable laws and regulations.

This policy update does not affect individuals paroled into the United States under the International Entrepreneur Rule. Such parolees are authorized to work based on their parole under current Department of Homeland Security regulations governing the International Entrepreneur parole program. ***(PR)***

CUC to harden infrastructure to withstand future typhoons

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be embarking on a project to harden its "overhead assets"—like power poles and wires—with materials that will be capable of withstanding future typhoons.

This will be a continuation of the work that CUC performed during the emergency power restoration effort following Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in October 2018, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho at CUC's board meeting yesterday.

The project, called Super Typhoon Yutu Mitigation Project, aims to harden the power distribution systems on Saipan and Tinian through the installation of resilient materials such as concrete poles and fiber glass crossarms and will focus on hardening CUC's overhead assets with materials capable of withstanding up to Category 5 typhoons.

He said CUC's Power Division will work with the agency's Capital Improvement Project Department on implementing resiliency measures for critical areas of the power grid on Saipan and Tinian. It was not immediately clarified if this means the project will be federally funded.

Camacho said the measures will cover emergency power distribution services to the islands' critical infrastructure such as Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s public healthcare facility and the airports.

On the status of pole replacements on Saipan, Camacho said that 1,326 power poles or about 42% have already been replaced with concrete ones, while 1,869 power poles or 58% are pending replacement.

On Tinian, he said, there are 252 or 24% pending pole replacements, while 815 or 76 % have already been replaced.

50th Okinawa Peace Memorial set

The Micronesia Repatriation Association will be hosting their 50th Okinawa Peace Memorial today at 1pm, at the Okinawa Peace Tower in Marpi.

MRA has been venturing to the CNMI for 50 years now, through Pacific Development Inc., to ensure that the people of Okinawa and the people of the Marianas maintain the relationship that's been established over the years.

On Thursday, Aug. 29, a total of 17 members of the MRA will be at the Saipan Mayor's Office to meet with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. In the evening, the Mayor's Office and the Governor's Office will host a dinner party for the Okinawans at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

This year's pilgrimage brings to the CNMI about 140 members of the MRA. While this is the last for their elderly members, MRA is hopeful that their younger members would carry on the tradition.

A resolution will be presented to MRA to thank them for their longstanding presence on the island and for their role in continuing the relationship between Okinawa and Saipan.

The peace memorial service is held annually for the past 50 years to pray for those who perished during World War II. ***(Iva Maurin)***

PITCHFEST WINNER MARC A. VENUS
Salty Skin Pacific LLC owner Joe Villacrusis, fifth from left, poses for a photo with the judging panel of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's first-ever Pitchfest last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom.

Public comments sought on PA Memos for 2 Marine Corps relocation projects

ASAN, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas announces the availability of two Programmatic Agreement Memos for public review and comments through Oct. 9, 2019.

PA Memos provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to participate in the Section 106 consultation process required under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The following PA Memo provides new cultural and natural resources information associated with planned construction projects and are available on the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural Information webpage at http://go.usa.gov/kZWG. (The URL is case sensitive).

■ PA Memo #2: Well field on Andersen Air Force Base. This project proposes necessary construction of water wells to meet future needs. Archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance will be contracted.

■ PA Memo #1: Andersen South Urban Combat Training Complex. Operation Activities on AAFB Andersen South installation. This project is being developed to serve the needs of Marine Corps training activities. Archaeological sites will be preserved in place or data recovered as determined by Navy archaeologists.

This is a 45-day public comment period and interested members of the community may submit comments via email to criwebcomment@navy.mil.

Those without internet access may obtain a printed copy of this PA Memo from the Guam Historic Resources Division, at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, 96910 (in the Department of Parks and Recreation office). In addition, the community is encouraged to subscribe to regular updates and other information related to the Programmatic Agreement by visiting the Joint Region Marianas web page and signing up at the following link: https://go.usa.gov/x5BQS. ***(USN)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING OF THE
CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM 2nd Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, September 03, 2019, 3:00PM*** at the BECQ Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of August 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes
II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
A. CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2019-X-020
Project: XINGSHA HOTEL PROJECT
The Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC is proposing to construct the Xingsha Hotel along Avenue and Kammer Beach, Lot No. 040 T 06, in San Jose, Tinian. The proposed project consists of three 3-story building complex with a total of 138 unit guest rooms, 112 parking spaces, storage area, control room, lobby and reception area, snack bar, and kitchen and dining areas with seating of about 24 persons. The proposal includes landscaping of plants and trees.
1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
2) CRM Permit Application Final Determination
III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

PSS classes on austerity Fridays

The Public School System will begin classes on Sept. 3 and will be running classes even on austerity Fridays, which falls on Fridays during government payday.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña confirmed that PSS will be holding regular, whole-day sessions on austerity Fridays.

He said all public schools, with the exclusion of five, will be having regular sessions. The five schools are slated to have double sessions.

According to the *Saipan Tribune* archives, the five schools that are currently under double sessions are Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Koblerville Elementary School, due to the damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu.

According to the current PSS School Year 2019-2020 calendar, PSS will have 180 instructional days. Classes will end by mid-June. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

Karidat to host fundraising luncheon

Karidat Social Services will be having a fundraising luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Sept. 15 from 11am to 2pm, and will be presenting four awards to honor its many supporters in the community.

The non-profit's fundraising is in honor of those who have contributed to the mission of the organization.

Four awards will be presented at the event, including the Bishop Emeritus Tomas A Camacho-Spirit of Service Award, to recognize individuals who has made significant contributions to the community through volunteering, and whose ethical standards are consistent with the mission and values of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa or Karidat Social Services.

Karidat will also present the Faith, Hope, and Karidat Award, which recognizes devotion to reducing poverty, promoting recovery, and strengthening families; the Corporate Champion Award to give recognition to a generous donor to Karidat Social Services; and the Partnership in Service Award to recognize a person or an entity that generously supports and partners with Karidat in providing social services.

To purchase tickets or to help Karidat sell tickets, contact Lauri Ogumoro, Karidat Social Services director, at 234-6981. ***(Iva Maurin)***

SERVICE LEARNING
Community volunteer ambassador Oceana Songsong gives the NMI Girl Scouts a quick demonstration on how to pull weeds at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater last Saturday as part of their service learning.
IVA MAURIN

Manglona registered as professional civil engineer

One of the managing partners of Pacific Engineering Group and Services LLC, Denn M. Mangloña, has recently been registered as a professional civil engineer in the CNMI after passing the PE Civil Exam of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and the Seismic Principles Exam of the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists on his first attempt.

Mangloña

Mangloña holds a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from Case Western Reserve University (2014), Cleveland, Ohio.

Following his graduation, Mangloña returned to the CNMI as a civil engineer and assistant project manager before being promoted to a project manager for SSFM CNMI LLC. Since then, he has transitioned to the role of assistant general manager for PEGS with over five years of experience.

His experiences include contract administration, project management, and design for a variety of private clients and government agencies.

Among others, he is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and he is certified by the Guam Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in construction quality management.

Mangloña continues his professional development by attending workshops and trainings, the latest of which is the National Highway Institute's course on contract management in Suffolk, Virginia in May 2019.

Manglona graduated from Rota High School in 2010, and he is the son of Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) and Lydia Mangloña. ***(PR)***

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Zoning approves B&B business in Dandan

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Zoning board has approved American Huasheng Trade Corp.'s proposal to operate a bed-and-breakfast business on Saipan.

The proposed B&B will occupy an existing two-story building with six bedrooms along Tasi Drive in Dandan. It is the company's first investment in the CNMI.

Zoning board member Ignacio Demapan expressed appreciation for the corporation's decision to invest on Saipan, adding that the island needs investments as much as possible.

Wing Piu Billy Lam, who represents American Huasheng, disclosed last June that the company is investing $35,000 for the building's conversion into a B&B.

Lam believes one way to make it easier for investors to come in is to make Zoning board meetings more frequent and make them more predictable.

"I am glad that the Zoning board finally approved the project. Zoning law is pretty strict, and the [schedule of] public hearing is a little bit difficult to get, so many investors get scared. [The meetings are] not every month. This is something we can improve to make the investors feel better," Lam said.

The Zoning board has approved the project with the condition that the corporation should comply with all CNMI tax laws, including the CNMI hotel occupancy tax, as well as comply with the requirements of all regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the project.

The operation of the B&B should also not generate noise, odor, light, and dust that would affect the neighborhood. The place and its immediate surrounding areas should be kept clean and free from trash, waste, and debris.

There should also be no parking of vehicles at the public street at any time; and the B&B should have a parking area, clearly marked, with sufficient light posts, and in conformity to parking requirements in the Saipan Zoning Law.

If the B&B proves to be successful, the corporation intends to build a hotel on the island. "I hope this group will invest in the future to build a better Saipan," Lam said.

SAYONARA PARTY
Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang delivers his remarks to a delegation of the Japanese Youth Association students last Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa during a farewell get-together for the group.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHCC warns public vs leptospirosis

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has issued a public health advisory against leptospirosis—a bacterial disease that's chiefly transmitted via the urine of rats and are usually contracted when wading through floods.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, leptospirosis is caused by bacteria of the genus leptospira, which can be found in dirty water.

With the heavy rains and runoff occurring throughout the CNMI these last few weeks, the advisory from the CHCC Bureau of Environmental Health says that people with a high risk of exposure to the bacteria are those who come into contact with water regularly or as part of their jobs.

This includes, swimmers, farmers, veterinarians, fishery workers, and sanitation workers.

Additional risks of exposure include drinking water from a contaminated source, such as an unclean household or commercial water tank, or doing household chores that require a person to be near water that might be contaminated such as cleaning flooded homes or tents.

Travis said that leptospirosis can cause a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for diseases. The common symptoms of leptospirosis include fever, headaches, muscle aches, red eyes, vomiting and diarrhea, abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), skin rashes, or coughs. "If you are experiencing one or more of these symptoms, please see your doctor," she said.

To prevent leptospirosis:

■ Treat water to make it safe to drink by boiling or using an appropriate chemical treatment, especially if it has been collected from a source that could be exposed to urine from animals or contaminated by flood water runoff.

■ Use waterproof bandages or other covering that seal out water to cover cuts and abrasions.

■ Do not swim, bathe, submerge, or wade your head in, or shallow floodwater or any fresh water source that may contain animal urine or be contaminated with animal urine.

■ Keep food, water, and trash in closed containers to prevent rodent infestations. Use any trapping possible to catch any rodents you see, and avoid eating food that rodents may have had access to.

For more information, contact the BEH at (670) 664-4870/72 or email BEH director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP 19-CHCC/CGC-021
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 09, 2019 TIME: 11:59 PM
"FIRST FLOOR RENOVATION - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

***MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON AUGUST 29, 2019 @ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER, GLORIA DRIVE, NAVY HILL**

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that an **Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for **September 06, 2019, Friday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Correctional Facility**, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The following items are included in the agenda.

Board of Parole Executive Meeting Agenda

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to order
B. Roll Call
C. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
A. Adoption of Agenda
B. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
a. Parole Hearing Minutes – April 03 – 04, 2019
b. Executive Meeting Minutes – April 05, 2019

III. Old Business
a. To amend and adopt the Substance Abuse of Drug Testing Policy
b. To amend and adopt the Board of Parole Firearms & Use of Force of Policy
i. To include under the Government Owned Firearms Part A & B Authorized Firearms: Glock 23, Gen 4 and .40 caliber
ii. To include under the Government Owned Firearms Part C; Other Firearms: High power rifle AR15 semi auto, 223/5.56 mm, 12-gauge semi auto shotgun and other firearms open and allowed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

IV. Miscellaneous
A. Schedule of next Parole Hearing
B. Schedule of next Executive Meeting

V. Adjournment

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a Parole Hearing is scheduled for **September 04 – 05, 2019 (Wednesday – Thursday), beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Correctional Facility**, located at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The Agenda is as follows:

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to order
B. Roll Call
C. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
A. Adoption of Agenda

III. Parole Hearing

	BOP No.:	Criminal Case No.:
1. Erza K. Deleon Guerrero	19-008	19-0069D
2. George N. Langu	19-009	15-0178
3. Laraad Ramangmou	19-010	17-0076/16-0021D/15-0004D
4. Jesse James B. Camacho	19-011	98-00175B/00-0538A
5. Shawn C. Appleby	19-012	96-0319/99-0479D/04-0200

IV. Revocation Hearing
1. Nicholas V. Cabrera 18-010 15-0021A

V. Adjournment

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman

8/23/19
Date

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Attorney for Petitioner Ramon S. Salas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LILLIAN SALAS LAVEQUE, Decedent. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0248 - CV — NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: LILLIAN SALAS LAVEQUE, DECEASED.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition by Ramon S. Salas for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 26th day of September, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net. Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, LILLIAN SALAS LAVEQUE, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this day 20th day of August, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ BY: DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

THOMPSON LAW, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, F0221
J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LUIS ILO RANGAMAR, Decedent. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0268 — NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS — Date: Sept. 26, 2019 Time: 10:00 am Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE LUIS ILO RANGAMAR:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Luis Ilo Rangamar. The counsel for Petitioner is Thompson Law, LLC whose address is the 2nd Floor of J.E.Tenorio Building Gualo Rai , Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **September 26, 2019 at 10:00 am** at the 2nd Floor of Marianas Business Plaza. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **THOMPSON LAW, LLC** at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2019.

/s/ HONORABLE JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

PH labor officials reportedly OK with flexi-rules for Guam

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—At successful meetings between a Guam delegation and Philippine Cabinet officials, significant headway was made to provide a temporary exemption from the food and accommodation requirement for Guam contractors who recruit Filipino workers.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration policies and employment standards require overseas contractors to provide "food and accommodation or the monetary equivalent which shall be commensurate to the cost of living in the host country, or off-setting benefits" for Filipino workers. However, POEA allows for exemptions if the host country can demonstrate the ability to provide other benefits that will, at a minimum, offset costs of living. While there is no formal stipulation or agreement in place between Guam and the Philippines, POEA has consistently approved Guam contractor applications for H-2B labor.

Without a formal agreement, in March 2019, enforcement of the food and accommodation requirement was initiated by the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, raising concerns among contractors who urged Guam Department of Labor director David Dell'Isola to intervene.

He brought the issue to the attention of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, who immediately dispatched Carl Gutierrez, chief adviser on Economic Development, National and International Affairs, to lead a delegation to engage in high level talks with the Philippine government.

"With the military buildup ongoing and the H-2B labor shortage because of federal government restrictions, we cannot afford another setback that would be detrimental to our economy and prosperity. This situation places a huge burden on local contractors by delaying construction on critical infrastructure projects. I want to thank…Gutierrez for his persistence, …Dell'Isola for his leadership, and the Philippine government for their support," Leon Guerrero stated.

Gutierrez coordinated the meetings with Philippine government officials while Dell'Isola led the presentation to seek the waiver for Guam. The discussions were held with Philippine Secretary of Labor Silvestre H. Bello III, POEA administrator Bernard P. Olalia, POEA Licensing and Regulation Office director IV Ria Corazon S. Land, and POEA chief legal counsel Harvey A. Dumbab.

During the meeting, Dell'Isola and Olalia both agreed to work together before the next POEA council meeting to develop a formal agreement that would give Guam a permanent country exemption to the food and accommodation requirement.

"Our Guam delegation has made it clear that we are pursuing this exemption industry-wide and our meetings with the Labor officials proved to be very promising with all of them agreeing that a waiver for Guam benefits all of us," said Dell'Isola. "…Gutierrez was instrumental in this process and without his expertise, we would not have been able to garner the immediate attention of the Philippine government."

"We couldn't be more pleased with the initial response of the Philippine government to our outreach efforts in raising this issue," said acting Guam governor Josh Tenorio. "This kind of collaboration strengthens the relationship we have with the Philippines and the Filipino people." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be daily scheduled water service interruptions beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 28, to Friday, Aug. 30, from 8:30am to 3:30pm for the areas of As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag and portions of As Mahetog. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

A contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., AIC Marianas, Inc., and CUC's leak detection personnel will be conducting leak detections for damaged water lines along with repairs throughout the affected areas as part of an ongoing leak detection and repair project. This project will enhance CUC's capability to isolate problematic areas in the future to perform repairs and maintenance and reduce inconvenience to our consumers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Emergency water service outage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. expects water service to resume today, Aug.t 27, at 6am, to allow the Calhoun water tanks to regain their tank levels and provide water to Upper Navy Hill, Chalan Galaide, China Town, and As Falape. Water service will be dependent on the water tank levels.

There was a water service interruption for these areas yesterday due low water tank level caused by an emergency power service interruption that occurred earlier yesterday afternoon.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationi). ***(CUC)***

NMDC membership meeting today

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. invites all members and interested parties to the corporation's general membership meeting today, Aug. 27, at 6pm at the Carolinian Utt Pavillion in Garapan. The agenda will include NMD Corp.'s mission and accomplishments and committee reports. Come to learn about your benefits as an NMD and what we can do to secure them. Share your ideas as well! ***(PR)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 27 and 29: From 12am to 12:30am and 10:30am to 2:30pm.
- Aug. 28: From 10:30am to 2:30pm and 8:30pm to 11:59pm
- Aug. 30: From 8:30pm to 11:59pm
- Aug. 31: From 12am to 12:30am

This training supports aircrew combat readiness and is critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the island.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

Club 200 theme is Latin Nights

The 30th American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising dinner is scheduled for Oct. 12, a Saturday, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This year's theme will be "Latin Nights" and feature décor, dancing, costumes, and food from throughout Latin America. There will be salsa dancing and costume contests, piñata special prizes, and lots of door prizes. Support the Red Cross humanitarian work by purchasing tickets. Tickets are $100 each or $150 for VIP and available from ticket sellers or by calling the Red Cross office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Feds lack credibility for changes to Endangered Species Act

A federal push to weaken the Endangered Species Act is troubling on its face.

Making it worse is the behavior of the Interior Department. The agency is supposed to be a trusted steward of precious public resources, including endangered species and a fifth of the land in the United States. But it is hobbled by appearances of cronyism and reduced transparency.

ESA rule changes are now being made under the direction of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil and water-district lobbyist. He was elevated from deputy after the disastrous tenure of former Secretary Ryan Zinke, who resigned amid questions about travel expenses, lobbying influence and a real estate deal involving his family.

Upon Bernhardt's promotion in April, he faced a flurry of ethical complaints. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden called for an investigation into allegations that Bernhardt blocked a damning report on how endangered species were affected by a widely used pesticide, and the states of California and Massachusetts plan to sue over the ESA changes.

Interior's inspector general is also conducting an ethics investigation of Bernhardt. It is examining allegations that a new public-information policy undermines transparency, by increasing the involvement of political appointees in public-records requests.

Minor changes may be needed to update ESA rules. The act is a dynamic framework for decision making to protect and recover species at risk of extinction, and preserve habitat they need to survive.

These are complex, controversial decisions in the best of times. When trust in Interior's motives erodes, and the department makes it harder for the public to be fully informed, the process breaks down further.

Despite opposition from tens of thousands during a public-comment period, the agency is forging ahead with broad changes that increase flexibility but also make it more vulnerable to politicking. One would end blanket protections for species newly listed as threatened and allow a case-by-case approach, similar to how threatened marine species are handled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Another change enables the agency to start assessing economic impacts when it considers listing species as endangered or threatened.

The concern is that listing decisions will be skewed by economic considerations, undermining the scientific approach that's a defining feature of the ESA. The act mandates that listing decisions be based only on the best available scientific and commercial data.

Tweaks may be needed to the ESA. But an Interior Department facing ethical questions, led by a former oil lobbyist and politicizing public disclosure hasn't earned the trust to make such changes.

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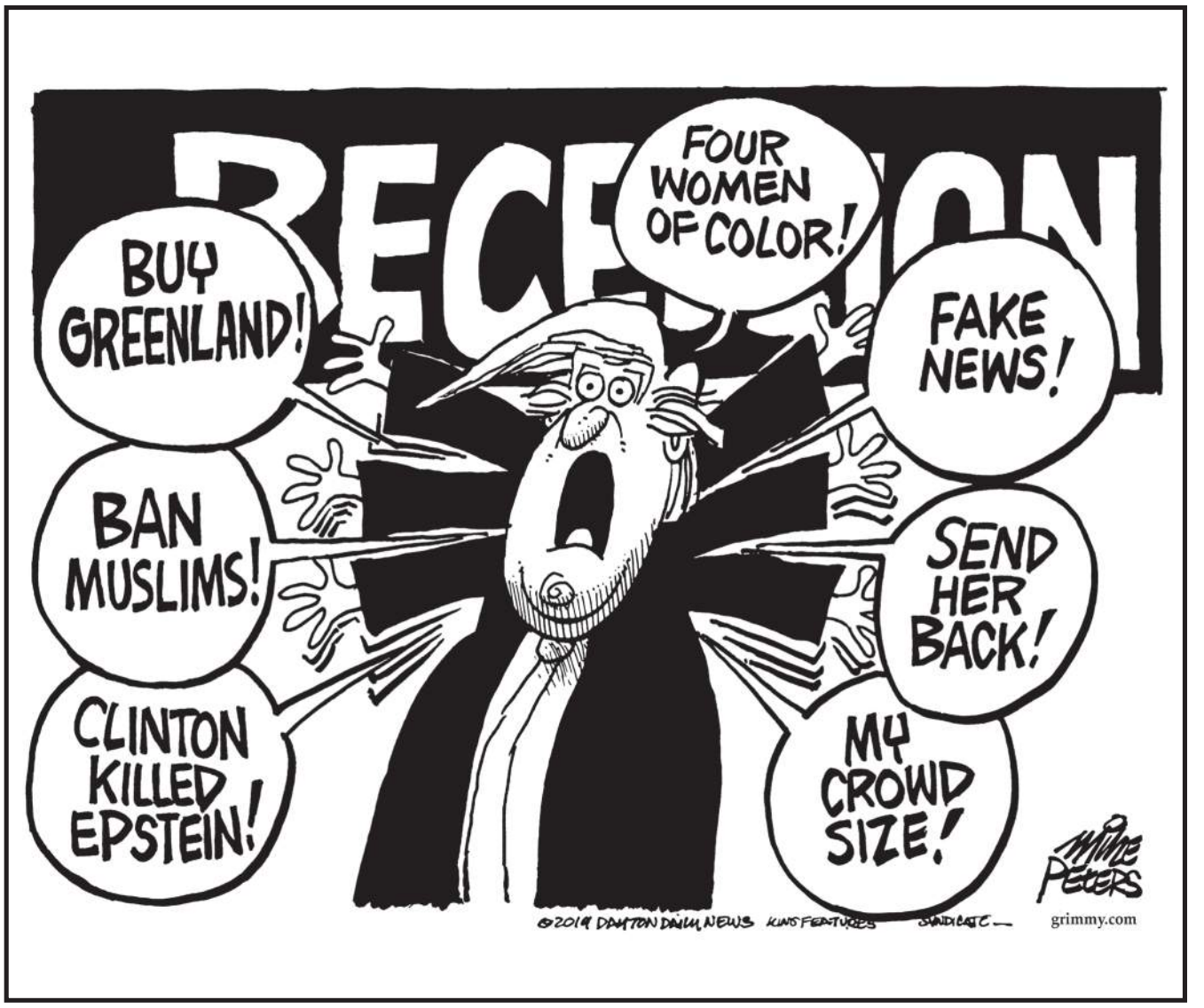


What one story about Type 1 diabetes meant for so many families

By LAURIE RAMSEY JAFFE
Chicago Tribune

Laurie Ramsey Jaffe is a founding Leadership Board member of the University of Chicago Medicine Kovler Diabetes Center and co-executive producer of the award-winning documentary Journey to a Miracle: Freedom from Insulin, *which aired on PBS stations nationwide.*

Thirteen years ago Friday, our daughter disconnected her insulin pump for the last time—an unexpected and breathtaking miracle. Her story spread across the globe, changing the lives of many who discovered that they, too, have a rare kind of diabetes—one that freed them from dependence on insulin. These people have become family.

Insulin was Lilly's lifeline from the time she was 1 month old and diagnosed with what doctors only knew to call Type 1 diabetes. My husband, Mike, and I were devastated, but we quickly shifted gears to care for her. We learned how to prick her tiny heels to test her blood sugar, monitor her carbohydrate intake and give her insulin shots, day and night. It was a daunting job. We prayed and began to work for a cure.

In June 2006, our lives changed forever. Mike attended a Chicago JDRF (previously known as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) meeting where Dr. Lou Philipson, director of the University of Chicago Medicine Kovler Diabetes Center, was speaking. He highlighted a seminal study that would soon be published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Researchers reported that babies diagnosed within the first six months rarely have Type 1 diabetes, but instead have a form caused by a genetic mutation. The most extraordinary finding, however, was that the best treatment is an inexpensive oral medication, not insulin.

Amazed, Mike approached Dr. Philipson and told him about Lilly. The doctor recommended genetic testing, and the rest is medical history, as first reported by the late Peter Gorner in the Chicago Tribune. She tested positive for the mutation, and was rediagnosed as having a newly understood form of diabetes called "monogenic diabetes."

Over days, we experienced the gradual unfolding of a miracle as she transitioned from dependence on insulin to taking oral medication. It was surreal and fantastic to witness Lilly disconnect her insulin pump for the last time and then celebrate with a big bowl of ice cream.

Within weeks, the Tribune piece reached 13 grateful families from around the country whose children were also able to switch their treatment from insulin to pills. Those parents reached out to me with questions and concerns. We all were pioneers trying to navigate uncharted territory. Friendships grew and bonds formed as we began introducing families to each other. Soon we established a lively email discussion group.

Word continued to spread through the media and internet, the miracles multiplied and our group grew beyond the U.S. The conversations among parents provided researchers at the Kovler Diabetes Center with critical insights into monogenic diabetes.

It became clear that bringing together families and researchers would be invaluable. In 2010, the "Celebrating Miracles" family conferences were born. Under the leadership of the Kovler Diabetes Center, hundreds from around the world have eagerly convened in Chicago every three years since then. Just a few weeks ago, we held our fourth meeting. It was a love fest among families and the doctors who care for them, as well as a catapult for research.

The miracles continue to astound us, and this summer one unfolded before our eyes. A California family came to the conference to learn more about their son's recent diagnosis of monogenic diabetes. His mother had been diagnosed with diabetes and on insulin for many years. Genetic testing had been done, but her endocrinologist had filed the results away. When she arrived at the Chicago meeting, however, our doctors revealed the jaw-dropping results: Like her son, she also has monogenic diabetes and does not need to take insulin. After 15 years, she stopped taking shots that very day.

It is tempting to muse about the "what ifs," but we know that nothing happens by chance. This journey is part of a greater plan that we have only begun to understand. In the meantime, it is humbling and rewarding to be a part of this movement that continues to change lives and enrich science.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If you care about your loved ones, plan your estate

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday. Contact Sundell at jsundell@jzgroupinc.com.

We are fragile and finite. We live then we die. Our fates are sealed. And yet we go to great lengths to avoid acknowledging and preparing for the inevitable. This avoidance can carry a tragic price—but we don't pay it, our loved ones do.

What if you contract Alzheimer's or go into a long-term coma: Who makes the medical decisions? Who handles your finances? And what if your loved ones disagree on the correct way to handle the situation? If you've never put your wishes in writing, then each of these questions is a breeding ground for strife between the people you care most about.

Or consider another example: Frank and Martha had a long and happy marriage, resulting in three children: Cate, Dan, and Evan. Near the end of their life, Martha told Cate that she would get the house while Frank told Dan and, years later, Evan that they would get the house. But neither Frank nor Martha had a will or trust expressing their wishes in writing.

What happens when Frank and Martha pass away? Conflict. Why? Because Cate, Dan, and Evan all rightfully believe that their parents intended for them to receive the family home. And, by extension, that the other siblings are wrongfully trying to take what their parents wanted them to have.

What about more complicated cases such as if Frank and Martha owned a business or lots of land? What if they had several family heirlooms that each sibling wanted? What if Frank or Martha had a child out of wedlock or they adopted a child?

As the examples demonstrate, failing to plan is actually planning to create conflict within your family just as they are struggling through the tragedy of your passing.

Fortunately, a little preparation goes a long way. So, what should you do? At a minimum, you'll want two sets of documents: One set for issues that will arise while you are alive and a different set for what happens after you pass away.

While you are alive, the main topics are who will handle your finances, who can review your medical records, who can make medical decisions for you, and whether you want to be resuscitated if you become incapacitated.

To address financial decisions, you will want to create a financial power of attorney (also known as a durable power of attorney). This document should state who has authority to act on your behalf and list what powers they have. Common powers include the ability to invest your money; pay your taxes; receive your government benefits; use your assets to pay your everyday expenses; buy, sell, maintain, pay taxes on, and mortgage your real estate; and so on.

When you create this document, you will also need to decide whether it becomes "live" immediately or if it only goes into effect after you've become incapacitated. The benefit of the document being live immediately is that if you become incapacitated, your agent can take action on your behalf immediately. But the drawback is that they can abuse that power as soon as the document is signed. So, you need to choose your agent wisely.

If, on the other hand, the financial power of attorney springs into effect when you become incapacitated, the upside is that your agent has less chance to abuse their power. But the downside is delays. It can take a long time for the agent to document that you are incapacitated. For example, doctors are often reluctant to issue an opinion stating that their patient is incapacitated because of legal liability that might arise for the doctor.

Moving to medical decisions, you will want to create a medical power of attorney (also known as an advance directive or a healthcare power of attorney). This document should say who can review your medical records and appoint someone to make medical decisions for you when you cannot such as because you are under anesthesia, in a coma, or no longer of sound mind. The document will also lay out your health care preferences. For instance, do you want to receive life-prolonging treatments such CPR, drugs, dialysis, blood transfusions, surgery, or a respirator? Similarly, if you are near death or permanently comatose such that you can't survive without intravenous feeding, do you want to keep receiving food and water through an IV, especially if you are suffering from great pain or have little prospect of waking up?

Putting these desires in writing is a blessing to your family. It prevents them from having to make hard decisions about what kind of treatment you should get and whether to resuscitate you if your chances of survival are bleak. And it averts disagreements between the family if they differ on how to handle these challenging end-of-life decisions.

That brings us to what you should do to make life better for your loved ones after you are no longer here, including how to keep your assets private, prevent or reduce probate, and protect your assets from both your and your beneficiaries' creditors. To learn about that, stay tuned for the next column.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Money, money and more money!

An unfortunate news came to us that my sister had passed away. Her husband wanted to bury her on Rota. So I went ahead and purchased two round-trip Star Marianas tickets ($520) so that my daughter and I could attend the funeral. I went up to the commuter terminal at the airport in Guam and paid for our tickets explaining that the funeral will be on Saturday and that I have to be back in Guam on Sunday as my daughter needs to be back at school Monday.

Today I went to check-in for our flight to Guam and was told we weren't on the passenger list. Mind you, I had paid for our car rental, hotel and food during our stay and was short on funds. They contacted Guam and were told I had made the return reservation for the 24th. I told them that's not true as the funeral was on Saturday and I couldn't possibly leave in the middle of the funeral service to make it to their 12:30pm flight to Guam. I mean, common sense would tell you that! So because I missed the flight on Saturday, my tickets to Guam were voided and I had to buy two more tickets ($260) if I wanted to get out of Rota.

As angry as I was, I had no choice but to borrow from family. Humiliated, I just wanted to get to Guam. We arrived in Guam but found out my baggage was on Rota and I would have to wait until Monday for them. I had frozen food in a box and it will be spoiled by Monday. On top of all that, they want me to pay $.50 a pound for my baggage!

Mel Sablan
Yigo, Guam

Defending America after 2020

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO
The Heritage Foundation

A Heritage Foundation vice president, James Jay Carafano directs the think tank's research on matters of national security and foreign relations.

Many people around the world will be watching and waiting to see how the next American election turns out, but one group doesn't have that luxury: those in the Pentagon. They have a little less than two years to get ready to explain to the next administration, a new Congress and their fellow Americans how they plan to protect America from potential aggressors such as China, Russia and Iran.

The U.S. military is in a strange place. Likely as not America won't be looking to start any new wars anytime soon. Congress passed a two-year budget deal which would deliver the military sustained and consistent funding through the next two fiscal years, and Washington is distracted by a divisive and bitter no-holds-barred political struggle for power.

So the two sides will war over a lot of issues, but war itself probably won't top the list. This election cycle is proving to be mostly about domestic issues. In short, the Pentagon isn't the center of attention.

What this represents to the military is an opportunity—an opportunity to use that time to make a clear and compelling case for what capabilities America's military will bring to the table to protect America's interest over the long term and ensure the global stability which suits the U.S. and its friends and allies.

On the high end, the U.S. needs to demonstrate the capacity to deter great power conflict. Right now, Russia, China, Iran and North Korea share a common goal. They would like to "win without fighting." In other words they would like to beat the U.S. without getting into a military confrontation where they know they'd have at least as much to lose as we do—if not more.

We need to keep it that way. We have to remain able to demonstrate that we can fight and win the big ones, so no ever even thinks about giving it a shot.

In particular, the U.S. has to refurbish its capacity to lead in large-scale conventional conflicts, operating well above the level of ground brigades, fighter sorties and the naval task force deployments as it does now. The U.S. must be able lead, fight and sustain coalition armies fighting on land, at sea and in the air—as well as in space and cyberspace.

Just deterring big wars, however, isn't enough. America's competitors will look for other ways to meddle, undermine and fracture America's power and alliances. These competitors want to get their way by engaging in operations below the level of general wars.

The U.S. has to sustain the capability and capacity to operate freely, particularly where America's vital interests are at stake. This means working with our allies in Europe, checkmating Iran in the Middle East and working for a free and open Indo-Pacific in the Far East.

The Pentagon doesn't have luxury of focusing only on one or two of these regions. You can be sure that the minute the U.S. steps back in any of these areas, one of our competitors will step up in our place.

Finally, the U.S. can't forget the "low" end of conflict. This administration would like to finish in places such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. But while we would like to forget about this kind of conflict, others won't. Like it or not, the U.S. must assume that sooner or later it will have to train, assist and support allies or other countries struggling with the challenges of unconventional conflict and political warfare.

The U.S. shouldn't lose its muscle memory for low-end conflict. The Army, for example, ought to retain its robust Security Assistance Brigade capability.

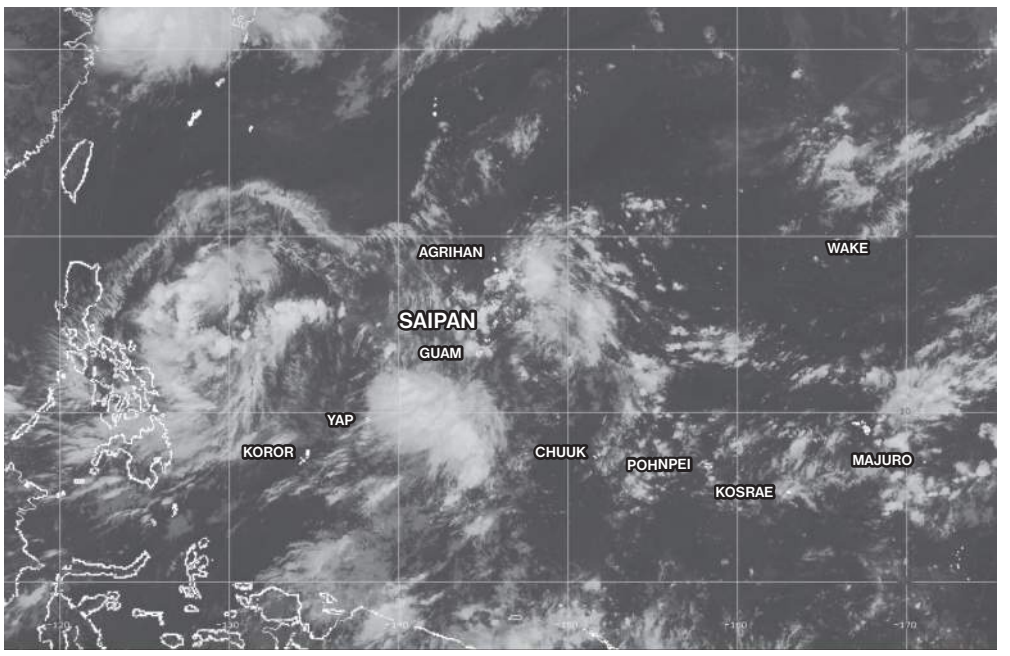
If the Pentagon does its job right between now and the election, it can demonstrate that while America's military isn't cheap, it's a bargain for sustaining the freedom, prosperity and security of Americans well into the 22nd century.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East to northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated morning showers, then isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° / 77°	89° / 77°	89° / 78°	89° / 78°	89° / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:18 PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show that showers have increased across Guam and waters to the west of the islands. Low-level convergence associated with an approaching surface trough from the east is causing the showers to increase. Conditions are expected to stabilize some this evening with showers decreasing back to isolated.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	90° / 64°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Sunny	90° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	57° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 78°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	82° / 79°
Paris	Showers	93° / 66°
Busan	Rain	79° / 73°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	86° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Tokyo	Showers	84° / 79°
Washington, DC	Showers	80° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
10:59 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.04
6:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
11:30 PM	LOW TIDE	1.28

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:21 AM	3:43 PM	-
Wednesday	3:23 AM	4:42 PM	-
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	5:31 AM	6:32 PM	-
Saturday	6:35 AM	7:22 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Atkins Kroll donates 2019 RAV4 to Club 200

Atkins Kroll Saipan will announce its sponsorship of the Red Cross-NMI Chapter's annual gala Club 200 during a press conference at 11am today, Aug. 27, at the AK Toyota showroom in Oleai.

Atkins Kroll will donate a 2019 RAV4 LE to the event as additional incentive for residents, supporters, and advocates to raise funds for the Red Cross NMI Chapter. The value of the 2019 RAV4 LE is listed at $30,999.

Clark Boswell, AK vice president and general manager, said "Atkins Kroll Saipan is really pleased to show our support for the Red Cross and their mission in providing relief, support, and comfort for those in our community at times of disaster."

"The newly designed 2019 RAV4 is the most popular SUV on Saipan and as the grand prize at the Club 200 event, we hope the gala will become the largest fundraising endeavor to date," added Boswell.

"We're excited to work with AK Toyota with this year's Club 200 event," said Red Cross NMI executive director John Hirsch. Hirsch added "Atkins Kroll has been a major donor and partner with the Red Cross both on Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. The company donated two Tacoma trucks on Guam and one Tacoma truck in Saipan with lifetime assistance for parts and service."

Red Cross Guam chapter executive director, Chita Blaise, cited "without the assistance of Atkins Kroll, we would have not been able to fulfill our mission as effectively as we have".

This year's Club 200 event themed "Rockin' Out to 40 Years" will be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan on Oct. 13, 2019. The event promises to be an evening of great rock and roll music featuring dinner, dancing, costume contests, and many fantastic door prizes. Tickets will be available island wide at select retail locations including the Atkins Kroll showroom in Oleai.

For more information about the Red Cross Northern Mariana Islands chapter's Club 200, you can find them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/arc.nmichapter/. ***(PR)***

Atkins Kroll will donate a 2019 RAV4 LE to the Red Cross-NMI Chapter's annual gala Club 200. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Target teams up with Disney to open shops

NEW YORK (AP)—Target is hoping to bring the magic of such characters as Mickey Mouse and Elsa to its own customers by opening permanent Disney shops at a cluster of stores starting this fall. As part of the collaboration with The Walt Disney Co., the Minneapolis-based discounter says it will open 25 Disney-branded stores starting on Oct. 4, with 40 additional locations opening by October 2020. Target is also launching a Disney-focused online experience on its site on Sunday. And it's planning a new store near the entrance of the Walt Disney World Resort in 2021. "This is a great fit for our brand and theirs," Brian Cornell, Target's CEO told reporters during a conference call on Saturday.

Columbus joining other Indiana cities with e-cigarette bans

COLUMBUS, Ind. (AP)—The southern Indiana city of Columbus is joining the list of communities around the state banning the use of electronic cigarettes in most public places. Columbus City Council members, however, are delaying the ban's effective date until mid-October so they can add an exemption for vape shops. The (Columbus) Republic reports shop owners had argued they would be forced out of business if included in the ban. The council's vote adds vaping to the city's current smoking ban and prohibits the use of any oral smoking devices in an attempt at circumventing the restrictions. The Carmel council voted in July to ban e-cigarette use. Indianapolis and South Bend are among the Indiana cities that have also included e-cigarettes in their local smoking restrictions.

Group civil litigations cost Chicago-area economy $3.8B

CHICAGO (AP)—A group that advocates for tort reform in Illinois says a new report concludes civil litigation ends up costing the Chicago-area economy some $3.8 billion a year. The Illinois Civil Justice League will formally release the findings Monday. The report was prepared by a Texas-based analysis firm, The Perryman Group. The president of Illinois Civil Justice League, John Pastuovic, singles out Illinois law that can force companies to pay most or all of a judgement even if they're found 25% liable. He says neighboring states set a much higher threshold of liability before a company has to pay the full judgement. The Springfield-based Illinois Trial Lawyers Association has consistently criticized the league's findings and its reform efforts. Its website says there's no indication Illinois tort law dissuades businesses from setting up in the state.

Johnson acknowledges touch and go prospects for Brexit deal

BIARRITZ, France (AP)—U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson acknowledged Sunday that the prospect of a Brexit deal was "touch and go," as other European Union capitals grasp the problems Britain has with the withdrawal agreement.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit, Johnson said that in the last few days, following visits to France and Germany, it has dawned on the EU what "the shape of the problem is for the U.K." Among the key issues is how to prevent the return of a border between EU member Ireland and Britain's Northern Ireland.

As the clock runs down to the Oct. 31 exit date, Johnson injected doubt into hopes that a deal might be stuck.

"I think it's going to be touch and go," he told the BBC. "But the important thing is to get ready to come out without a deal."

And with that, there would be a price. He confirmed, speaking to broadcaster Sky, that he would withhold the bulk of the 39 billion-pound ($48 billion) Brexit divorce bill if there is not a deal.

The comments came after Johnson won U.S. President Donald Trump's approval for his approach in talks to leave the EU after a chummy meeting on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in France.

Johnson glowed as Trump said he gave him a vote of confidence in his approach to the Brexit talks. The British prime minister's promise to bring his country out of the EU on Oct. 31 no matter what has raised worries about a disorderly divorce that would see new tariffs and border checks on trade between Britain and the EU, seriously disrupting business.

Trump promised that he and Johnson would work out "a very big trade deal" between their nations once the United Kingdom leaves the EU.

"I'm very grateful for that," Johnson said. "And we're looking forward to having some pretty comprehensive talks about how to take forward the relationship in all sorts of ways, particularly on trade. We're very excited about that."

But the pair were barely past the elegant winding staircase at the Hotel du Palais when it became clear that each had a different vision of what a trade deal might look like. The United States has said it is ready to negotiate a post-Brexit trade deal with the U.K. in pieces—rather than London's wish of a comprehensive pact.

Johnson pledged a "fantastic deal once we clear up some of the obstacles in our path." Trump interrupted, promising "lots of fantastic mini-deals."

The British prime minister badly needs a trade deal with the United States. Supporters of Brexit say a free trade deal with the United States can help make up for any reduction in commerce with the EU after Britain leaves the bloc's single market for goods and services. In 2018, Britain did almost half its trade with the EU, while the U.S. accounted for 18% of U.K. exports and 11% of imports.

"We're working on a very big trade deal and I think it's going to work out," Trump said.

The meeting between the leaders came a day after Johnson warned that getting a trade deal with the United States won't be "plain sailing" as he bemoaned barriers to the United Kingdom's goods in American markets.

Speaking to reporters as he flew to France for the Group of Seven meeting, Johnson cited examples small and large of British goods that struggle in U.S. markets for bureaucratic reasons. He cited things like cauliflower, English wine, pillows, rail cars and even parts for showers.

It wasn't just goods on Johnson's radar, but professional services, which far and away make up most of Britain's economy. Accountants, lawyers, architects and others face barriers in providing services to the U.S. that don't exist the other way around, he said.

"If you want to sell insurance in the U.K. you only need to speak to two regulators," Johnson fumed. "If you want to sell insurance in the U.S. you have to speak to 50 regulators. The same point can be made about architects and many other professions."

Even though he needs a deal, Johnson was at pains to say he wasn't giving away the store. Some sectors of the U.K. economy wouldn't be part of any pact. Johnson has promised the National Health Service will be off-limits and that animal welfare standards would be safeguarded.

The odds don't look good for Johnson, who holds a majority in Parliament of a single vote and a wish to honor a highly divisive 2016 referendum that resulted in his present course. Nonetheless, whenever cameras are near at least, he remains unflaggingly optimistic.

"Let me give you a metaphor," Johnson told ITV as the waves of the Atlantic Ocean crashed behind him.

"I swam round that rock this morning. From here you cannot tell there is a gigantic hole in that rock. There is a way through," he said. "My point to the EU is that there is a way through, but you can't find the way through if you just sit on the beach."

Nation

Trump sends mixed messages to China on trade war

BIARRITZ, France (AP)—Injecting fresh uncertainty at a time of global economic jitters, President Donald Trump sent mixed messages Sunday on the U.S.-China trade war as leaders at a global summit pushed the unpredictable American president to ease frictions over tariffs and cooperate on other geopolitical challenges.

Trump's head-snapping comments at the Group of Seven summit about his escalating trade fight with China—first expressing regret, then amping up tariff threats—represented just the latest manifestation of the hazards of the president's go-it-alone mantra. Allies fault his turbulent trade agenda for contributing to a global economic slowdown.

Despite Trump's insistence that reports of U.S. tensions with allies are overblown, fissures between the U.S. and six of the world's other advanced economies were apparent on trade policy, Russia and Iran as the leaders gathered at a picturesque French beach resort.

Two days after the U.S. and China traded a fresh round of retaliatory tariffs and Trump threatened to force U.S. businesses to cut ties with China, the president appeared to harbor qualms about the trade war, which has sent financial markets tumbling.

Asked during a meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson if he had any second thoughts about escalating the trade conflict, Trump told reporters, "Yeah. For sure."

A computer screen shows images of Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and U.S. President Donald Trump as a currency trader works at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019. AP

He added, "I have second thoughts about everything."

Hours later, the White House backpedaled. Press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying the press had "greatly misinterpreted" Trump's comments. She said the president only responded "in the affirmative - because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher."

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow, who was in the room when Trump spoke and was later interviewed by CBS' "Face the Nation," offered his own explanation.

Kudlow claimed Trump "didn't quite hear the question" although reporters asked the president three times whether he had any second thoughts about ramping up the trade war and he responded three times.

At first, Trump's admission appeared to mark a rare moment of self-reflection by the famously hardnosed leader. The subsequent explanation fits a pattern of Trump recoiling from statements he believes suggest weakness.

Earlier this month, Trump backed off on a threat to place even tougher tariffs on Chinese imports as aides fretted about their impact on the holiday shopping season and growing fears of a recession in the U.S.

Trump had hoped to use the summit to rally other leaders to do more to stimulate their economies, as fears rise of a potential slowdown in the U.S. before he stands for reelection in November 2020.

Johnson, for his part, praised Trump for America's economic performance—but chided the U.S. leader for his unbending China policy.

"Just to register a faint sheep-like note of our view on the trade war," he told Trump. "We're in favor of trade peace."

Trump said he had "no plans right now" to follow through on his threat of an emergency declaration, but he insisted he would be within his rights to use a 1977 law designed to target rogue regimes, terrorists and drug traffickers as the newest weapon in the clash between the world's two largest economies

"If I want, I could declare a national emergency," Trump said. He cited China's theft of intellectual property and the large U.S. trade deficit with China, saying "in many ways that's an emergency."

For all of that, Trump disputed reports of friction with other G-7 leaders, saying he has been "treated beautifully" since he arrived.

The cracks started to emerge moments later after the French government said the leaders had agreed at a Saturday dinner that French President Emanuel Macron would deliver a message to Iran on behalf of the group.

Trump denied he had signed off on any such message.

"No, I haven't discussed that," he told reporters during a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Administration officials said Trump was noncommittal when the leaders discussed the subject of a message to Iran during a conversation about Iran's nuclear program.

Attorneys: Charges expected in Florida nursing home deaths

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Defense attorneys said Sunday that arrests are expected shortly in the case of a Florida nursing home where 12 patients died after its air conditioning power went out amid sweltering heat following Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Lawrence Hashish told The Associated Press his client is one of three nurses, in addition to an administrator, expecting to be charged in connection with the deaths after Hurricane Irma, which blew through Florida on Sept. 10 of that year. The storm knocked out a transformer linking the main air-conditioning unit to the power grid at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, sending temperatures soaring .

Hashish said the attorneys don't yet know what specific charges would be, but he expected those would likely entail some form of manslaughter offense.

Twelve deaths at the center had been ruled homicides . Police have been investigating the deaths for nearly two years but no charges have been filed thus far.

A voice message and email left by the AP for Hollywood Police were not immediately returned Sunday.

Hashish said his client and the others are merely scapegoats.

"The real crime is that the state is looking to blame selfless caregivers and the evidence will show that no crime was committed," he said in a telephone interview,

His co-counsel, Ilham Soffan, told the AP that their client was turning herself in Monday. The attorneys said they didn't have any further details about expected charges and planned to negotiate a bond agreement before an expected hearing Monday morning.

Patients began dying at the rehabilitation center days after the devastating hurricane struck Florida amid widespread power outages. Investigators said the center did not evacuate patients as temperatures inside began rising, even though a fully functional hospital was across the street. The home's license was suspended days after the storm and it was later shuttered.

Paramedic Craig Wohlitka and other paramedics from Hollywood Fire-Rescue testified last year that he was haunted by the deaths of patients there. Fire Lt. Amy Parrinello said one of the female patients had a temperature of 107.5 degrees (42 Celsius), the highest she had ever seen in his 12-year career. Later that morning, she said, another patient topped that with a temperature so high it couldn't be measured.

Wohlitka further testified that the crew decided to start checking other patients who hadn't been reported as ill. He said they saw a woman in a room who appeared sick, though a nursing home employee said they had just checked her and she was fine.

In the aftermath of Irma, the deaths made national headlines and sparked a political backlash. Months afterward, lawmakers passed a bill requiring backup power sources in Florida nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The legislation requires such facilities to have a generator capable of keeping nursing homes and assisted living facilities at 81 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) or lower for at least four days.

Hashish declined to identify his client by name, but said she was works as a full-time nurse at another facility and was just picking up a shift that day in September 2017.

"They called her. They said, 'can you come and help? We're short-handed,' and look what she walked into," he said.

Former NY congressman denies sex abuse allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer for former U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman denied on Sunday accusations leveled in a lawsuit that the New York Democrat is a sexual "predator" who violated a teenager at a Boy Scout camp five decades ago.

Ackerman

In a suit filed this month in state Supreme Court in Manhattan, Ackerman is accused of abusing a then-17-year-old—identified only as "John Doe"—while Ackerman was a director at the Ten Mile River Camp near Narrowsburg, in upstate New York. Ackerman was 23 at the time.

"In over 30 years of public service, there has never been any accusation of this kind or indeed of any wrongdoing in the Congressman's career," attorney Oscar Michelen said in an emailed statement. He added his client would "vigorously" fight the charges and seek to get the case dismissed.

In late 1966, according to the suit, Ackerman lured the teen into his car so he could drive him to an abandoned road, where he "attempted to force Mr. Doe to perform oral sex on him and forcefully performed oral sex on Mr. Doe."

The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, says the plaintiff has suffered "serious and severe psychological injuries and emotional distress, mental anguish, embarrassment and humiliation."

A local chapter of the Boy Scouts of America is also named as a defendant based on a claim that it failed "to take any steps to keep the dangerous predator away from the young men of the camp."

In a statement Sunday, the Boy Scouts said a check of a database used to screen volunteers found no record of any allegation against Ackerman.

"Had the national organization been made aware of credible allegations against Mr. Ackerman, we would have acted to remove him from scouting," it said.

Asia

HK police draw guns, arrest 36 from latest protest

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong police drew their guns and fired a warning shot after protesters attacked officers with sticks and rods, and brought out water cannon trucks for the first time, in an escalation in the summerlong protests that have shaken the city's government and residents.

Sunday's main showdown took place on a major drag in the outlying Tsuen Wan district following a protest march that ended in a nearby park. While a large crowd rallied in the park, a group of hardline protesters took over a main street, strewing bamboo poles on the pavement and lining up orange and white traffic barriers and cones to obstruct police.

After hoisting warning flags, police used tear gas to try to disperse the crowd. Protesters responded by throwing bricks and gasoline bombs toward the police. The result was a surreal scene of small fires and scattered paving bricks on the street between the two sides, rising clouds of tear gas and green and blue laser lights pointed by the protesters at the police.

The protesters eventually decided to abandon their position. Two water cannon trucks and a phalanx of police vehicles with flashing lights joined riot police on foot as they advanced up the street. They met little resistance.

AP

Policemen clash with demonstrators on a street during a protest in Hong Kong, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019.

Television footage showed a water cannon being fired once, but perhaps more as a test, as it didn't appear to reach the retreating protesters.

Officers pulled their guns after a group of remaining protesters chased them down a street with sticks and rods, calling them "gangsters." The officers held up their shields to defend themselves as they retreated. Police said that one officer fell to the ground and six drew their pistols after they were surrounded, with one firing the warning shot.

Some protesters said they're resorting to violence because the government has not responded to their peaceful demonstrations.

"The escalation you're seeing now is just a product of our government's indifference toward the people of Hong Kong," said Rory Wong, who was at the showdown after the march.

One neighborhood resident, Dong Wong, complained about the tear gas.

"I live on the 15th floor and I can even smell it at home," he said. "I have four dogs, sneezing, sneezing all day. ... The protesters didn't do anything, they just blocked the road to protect themselves."

Police said they arrested 36 people, including a 12-year-old, for offenses such as unlawful assembly, possession of an offensive weapon and assaulting police officers.

Earlier Sunday, tens of thousands of umbrella-carrying protesters marched in the rain. Many filled Tsuen Wan Park, the endpoint of the rally, chanting, "Fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong," the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

The march in Hong Kong's New Territories started near the Kwai Fong train station, which has become a focal point for protesters after police used tear gas there earlier this month. Police with riot gear could be seen moving into position along the march route.

Protesters have taken to the semiautonomous Chinese territory's streets for more than two months. Their demands include democratic elections and an investigation into police use of force to quell the protests.

A large group clashed with police on Saturday after a march in the Kowloon Bay neighborhood, building barricades and setting fires in the streets. Police said they arrested 29 people for various offenses, including unlawful assembly, possession of offensive weapons and assaulting police officers.

The clashes, while not as prolonged or violent as some earlier ones, ended a brief lull in the violence. The protests, which began in early June, had turned largely peaceful the previous weekend, after weeks of escalating violence.

In nearby Macao, another Chinese territory, a pro-Beijing committee chose a businessman as the gambling hub's next leader with little of the controversy surrounding the government in Hong Kong.

S. Korea cancels Japan intelligence deal amid trade dispute

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Thursday it will terminate an intelligence-sharing deal with Japan that focused on classified information about North Korea, a surprise announcement that is likely to set back U.S. efforts to bolster security cooperation with two of its most important allies in the Asian region.

South Korea attributed the decision to its bitter trade dispute with Japan, which has plunged the two countries' relations to their lowest point since they established diplomatic ties in 1965. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono called the decision "extremely regrettable" and summoned the South Korean ambassador to protest the linking of trade and security issues.

The U.S. expressed disappointment in the decision. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. hopes that "each of those two countries can begin to put that relationship back in exactly the right place." The U.S. is urging Japan and South Korea to continue to talk, he said.

Many experts had predicted that South Korea would be unlikely to spike the 3-year-old intelligence-sharing deal for the sake of its relations with the United States. South Korea has been seeking U.S. help in resolving the trade dispute, and Seoul and Washington have also been working together to restart stalled talks on stripping North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

South Korea's presidential office said it terminated the intelligence deal because Japan's recent decision to downgrade South Korea's trade status caused a "grave" change in security cooperation between the countries.

"Under this situation, the government has determined that maintaining the agreement, which was signed for the purpose of exchanging sensitive military intelligence on security, does not serve our national interests," Kim Yougeun, the deputy director of South Korea's presidential national security office, said in a nationally televised statement.

He said South Korea would formally notify Japan of its decision before Saturday, the deadline for an extension of the pact for another year.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kono said in a statement that the decision "was an action that completely misjudged the current security environment in the region and is extremely regrettable."

He said South Korea's linking of trade and security was "absolutely unacceptable, and we firmly protest to the South Korean government."

Since early last month, Japan has imposed stricter controls on exports to South Korea of three chemicals essential for manufacturing semiconductors and display screens—key export items for South Korea—and decided to remove South Korea from a list of countries granted preferential trade status.

US and Taliban resume talks on ending America's longest war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A United States envoy and the Taliban resumed negotiations Thursday on ending America's longest war after earlier signaling they were close to a deal.

A Taliban member familiar with, but not part of, the talks that resumed in Qatar said U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad also met one-on-one Wednesday with the Taliban's lead negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. The Taliban member spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk with reporters.

Baradar is one of the Taliban's founders and has perhaps the strongest influence on the insurgent group's rank-and-file members. Some in Afghanistan fear that Taliban fighters who reject a deal with the U.S. could migrate to other militant groups such as the brutal local affiliate of the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at a Kabul wedding over the weekend that killed at least 80 people.

That attack again raised fears among Afghans that a U.S.-Taliban deal will bring little peace for long-suffering civilians who have died by the tens of thousands in the past decade alone.

The U.S. and the Taliban have held eight previous rounds of negotiations in the past year on issues including a U.S. troop withdrawal, a cease-fire, intra-Afghan negotiations to follow and Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan will not be a launch pad for global terror attacks.

Previously, Khalilzad has said the intra-Afghan negotiations will be the occasion to work out thorny issues such as constitutional reforms, the fate of the country's many militias and even the name for Afghanistan, as the Taliban still refers to it as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

It was not immediately clear when a deal might be reached. President Donald Trump, who wants to bring home at least some of the 13,000 troops he says remain in Afghanistan before next year's election, was briefed on the negotiations Friday.

This week, Trump said it was "ridiculous" that U.S. troops have been in the country for almost 18 years. Two U.S. service members were killed on Wednesday, joining more than 2,400 U.S. service personnel who have died since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 to topple the Taliban, whose government had harbored al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Trump this week also said Afghanistan remains dangerous and "we have to have a presence"—a stance that could complicate talks with the Taliban, whose top demand has been the departure of all U.S. and allied troops, which number close to 20,000. A Taliban spokesman said the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Gen. Scott Miller, was at the negotiations in Qatar on Thursday.

World

Paris celebrates its liberation from Nazis, 75 years on

PARIS (AP)—Paris celebrated the American soldiers, French Resistance fighters and others who liberated the City of Light from Nazi occupation exactly 75 years ago on Sunday, unleashing an eruption of kissing, dancing, tears and gratitude.

Firefighters unfurled a huge French flag from the Eiffel Tower, recreating the moment when a French tricolor stitched together from sheets was hoisted atop the monument 75 years ago to replace the swastika flag that had flown for four years.

Dozens of World War II-era jeeps, armored vehicles, motorcycles and trucks and people dressed in wartime uniforms and dresses paraded through southern Paris, retracing the entry of French and U.S. tanks into the city on Aug. 25, 1944 .

Among those watching the parade was Roger Acher, 96, one of the few surviving veterans, who entered Paris with Gen. Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque's 2nd armored division around dawn that day. Fighting was fierce as they moved toward the city, he recalled. "I almost got killed."

A Dixieland band standing on an army truck played at the end of the parade, which wrapped up at the site of a new museum about the liberation and the French Resistance .

Long the jewel of European cities, Paris suffered relatively little damage in World War II, but its citizens were humiliated, hungry and mistrustful after 50 months under the Nazis.

AP

People dressed in World War II era clothes dance in the street during celebrations of the liberation of Paris from Nazi occupation 75 years ago, in Paris, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019.

The liberation of Paris was both joyous and chaotic. It was faster and easier for the Allies than their protracted battle through Normandy and its gun-filled hedgerows. But the fight for the French capital killed nearly 5,000 people, including Parisian civilians, German troops and members of the French Resistance whose sabotage and attacks had prepared the city for the liberation.

After invading in 1940, the Nazi hierarchy ensconced themselves in Paris' luxury hotels, and hobnobbed at theaters and fine restaurants. Collaborationist militias kept order, and French police were complicit in the most dastardly act of the Occupation: the 1942 roundup of around 13,000 Jews at the Vel d'Hiv bicycle stadium before their eventual deportation to the Auschwitz death camp in German-occupied Poland.

The Parisians who weren't deported or didn't flee used ration tickets to eat, wooden soles on shoes to replace scarce leather and sometimes curtains for clothes. The black market thrived.

The D-Day landings on June 6, 1944, helped change the tide of the war, allowing the Allies to push through Normandy and beyond to other German-occupied lands around Western Europe.

The message went out to the French Resistance in Paris that the Allies were advancing. Resistance member Madeleine Riffaud, now 95, described to The Associated Press killing a Nazi soldier on July 23, 1944, on a Paris bridge. Riffaud was spotted as she escaped on her bicycle, then arrested, tortured and jailed before being freed in a prisoner exchange days before the liberation of the city.

Seventy-five years later, she doesn't take the killing lightly.

"To carry out an action like that isn't playing with dolls," she said.

On Aug. 19, 1944, Paris police officers rebelled and took over police headquarters. On the night of Aug. 24, the first Allied troops entered southern Paris. The grand entrance of Gen. Leclerc's 2nd Armored Division followed by Allied forces would come the following day.

The German military governor of Paris, Gen. Dietrich von Choltitz, was arrested at his headquarters at the Meurice Hotel and signed the surrender.

Paris buildings still bear the bullet holes of fighting.

A group of U.S. World War II veterans is back in Paris for Sunday's events. They described to the AP their memories, some brought to tears by the horrors of the Nazi regime.

Steve Melnikoff, 99, of Cockeysville, Maryland, came ashore on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He calls war "nasty, smelly, terrible." But he maintains that "it was important for someone to do this," to stop Hitler from taking over more of the world.

Hezbollah leader: Israeli drones over Lebanon will be downed

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah said Sunday that his group will confront and shoot down any Israeli drones that enter Lebanese airspace from now on, raising the potential for conflict amid heightened regional tensions.

Hassan Nasrallah also vowed to retaliate to an Israeli airstrike inside Syria that took place hours earlier, which he said killed two Hezbollah members.

Nasrallah's speech came after one alleged Israeli drone crashed in a Hezbollah stronghold in south Beirut, landing on the roof of a building that houses Hezbollah's media office, while another exploded and crashed in a plot behind the building, causing material damage, authorities said.

A Hezbollah spokesman said earlier Sunday that the group did not fire on any of the drones. He said the second drone was likely armed, judging by the damage it caused.

Nasrallah said one of the drones had been flying low among buildings, calling it a military "suicide mission" and "a clear aggression."

He said allowing Israel to keep flying drones over Lebanon would lead to a similar situation as in Iraq, where a series of attacks there targeting military bases and weapons depot belonging to Iranian-backed militias have left the country on edge. U.S. officials say at least one of them was carried out by Israel.

In Saturday's strikes near the Syrian capital, Israel publicly stated it was thwarting an imminent drone strike against Israel by Iran's Revolutionary Guards' Al Quds Force.

But Nasrallah said the strikes actually hit a Hezbollah rest house, marking a rare acknowledgement of member deaths in Syria by Israeli strikes.

"I tell Israeli soldiers on the border (with Lebanon) to be cautious and wait. Maybe in a day or two or three or four... do not think for a moment that Hezbollah will allow such matters to pass," he added.

The downed drones and cross-border airstrikes come amid heightened tensions between Israel and Iran, which backs Hezbollah.

Israeli aircraft continued to violate Lebanese airspace Sunday, flying low over Beirut hours after the drones crashed, raising fears of a wider conflict.

Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif said a small, unmanned reconnaissance drone fell on a building housing Hezbollah's media office in the Moawwad neighborhood in Dahyeh, the group's stronghold in southern Beirut.

He said a second drone, which appeared to have been sent by Israel to search for the first one less than 45 minutes later, exploded in the air and crashed in an empty plot nearby, shattering windows in surrounding buildings.

Residents said they heard a loud blast that triggered a nighttime fire.

There was no immediate Israeli comment on the drone incident or Hezbollah's remarks.

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi Arabia, UAE vow to back Yemen war effort amid cracks

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have pledged to keep their floundering coalition war against Yemen's Houthi rebels together after an Emirati troop pullout and the rise of the southern separatists they supported. The joint communique early Monday came as the Houthis launched at least six ballistic missiles and two drone attacks into Saudi Arabia. That keeps up rebel pressure on the kingdom as online infighting between the Emirati and Saudi intelligentsia exposed growing cracks between the usually lockstep oil-rich nations. The UAE, an autocratic federation of seven sheikhdoms home to Dubai, has not publicly acknowledged how many troops it withdrew from Yemen. Yemeni officials have suggested Emirati troop strength has dropped by as much as 75% out of around 10,000 troops.

Spain's ex-king Juan Carlos I recovers after heart surgery

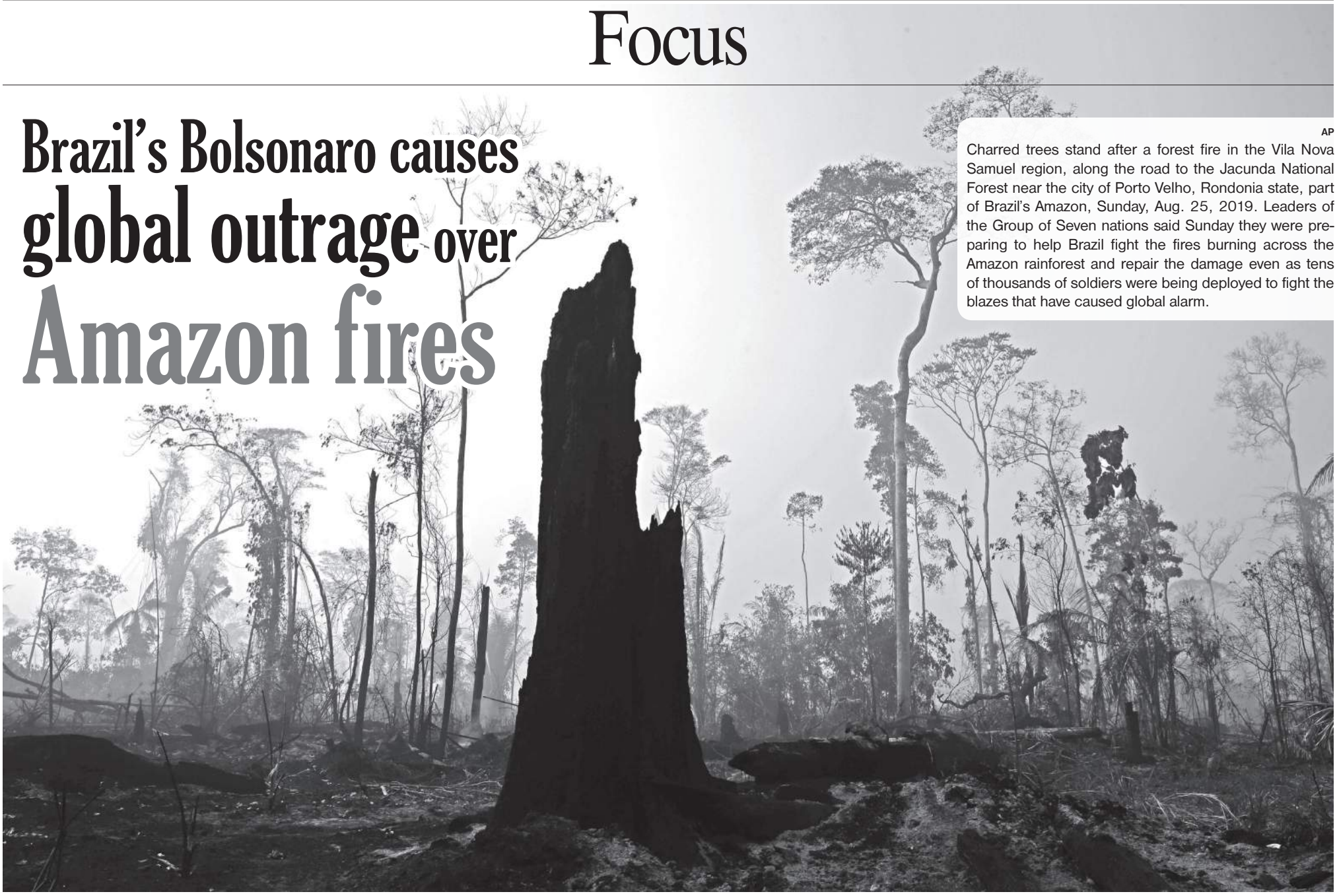
MADRID (AP)—Doctors at the hospital where Spain's former monarch Juan Carlos I underwent heart surgery say he is making a satisfactory recovery almost 24 hours after the operation. Lucía Alonso, the managing director of Madrid's Quironsalud University Hospital, said Sunday the 81-year-old king emeritus is awake and breathing without support. Alonso says in a statement that Juan Carlos is sitting up in bed and "is in good spirits." The triple bypass procedure Saturday was scheduled after the former king had a checkup two months ago. The hospital said the operation was successful and without complications. Juan Carlos abdicated in 2014 in favor of Felipe, ending a near 39-year reign. He retired from public duties last May.

Barcelona police clear beach amid report of explosive device

MADRID (AP)—Authorities in Barcelona evacuated one of the Spanish city's popular beaches Sunday after what is suspected to be a bomb dating from the Spanish Civil War was found in the sea. Reports that an unidentified explosive device had been found at the Sant Sebastià triggered an alert, with police clearing and cordoning off a long stretch of beach in the early afternoon when it was full of people amid temperatures close to 30 C (86 F). The device was discovered about 25 meters (80 feet) off the beach, lying in three meters (nearly 10 feet) of water, the city's security chief, Albert Batlle, told reporters. It is 1.1 meters long and 80 centimeters wide, Batlle said, according to private news agency Europa Press. He said the device is old and could date from the 1936-39 war but more details will be known only after Navy bomb disposal experts arrive Monday, he said. Finding such decades-old explosive devices is not uncommon, he said. The Navy team will explode the device, he said.

Focus

Brazil's Bolsonaro causes global outrage over Amazon fires



AP

Charred trees stand after a forest fire in the Vila Nova Samuel region, along the road to the Jacunda National Forest near the city of Porto Velho, Rondonia state, part of Brazil's Amazon, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019. Leaders of the Group of Seven nations said Sunday they were preparing to help Brazil fight the fires burning across the Amazon rainforest and repair the damage even as tens of thousands of soldiers were being deployed to fight the blazes that have caused global alarm.

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO and MARCELO DE SOUZA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTO VELHO, Brazil (AP)—Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has insulted adversaries and allies, disparaged women, blacks and homosexuals, and even praised his country's 1964-1985 dictatorship. Yet nothing has rallied more anger at home and criticism from abroad than his response to fires raging in parts of the Amazon region.

The far-right populist leader initially dismissed the hundreds of blazes and then questioned whether activist groups might have started the fires in an effort to damage the credibility of his government, which has called for looser environmental regulations in the world's largest rainforest to spur development.

In response, European leaders threatened to end a trade deal with Brazil and other South American nations. Thousands of people have demonstrated in cities across Brazil and outside Brazilian embassies around the world. #PrayforAmazonia became a worldwide trending topic. Pope Francis added his voice to the chorus of concern, warning that the "lung of forest is vital for our planet."

Bolsonaro finally took a less confrontational approach Friday and announced he would send 44,000 soldiers to help battle the blazes, which mostly seem to be charring land deforested, perhaps illegally, for farming and ranching rather than burning through stands of trees.

Some say it's not enough and comes too late.

"No democratic government has suffered such international criticism as Bolsonaro is going through," said Mauricio Santoro, an international relations professor at Rio de Janeiro State University. "By breaching international environmental agreements, Brazil has been discredited, blurred and unable to exercise any type of leadership on the international stage."

Brazilian military planes began dumping water on fires in the Amazon state of Rondonia over the weekend, and a few hundred of the promised troops deployed into the fire zone. But many Brazilians again took to the streets in Rio de Janeiro and other cities Sunday to demand the administration do more. Some held banners that read: "Bol$onaro is burning our future."

Bolsonaro has previously described rainforest protections as an obstacle to Brazil's economic development. Critics say the record number of fires this year has been stoked by his encouragement of farmers, loggers and ranchers to speed efforts to strip away forest. Although he has now vowed to protect the area, they say it is only out of fear of a diplomatic crisis and economic losses.

"The international pressure today has a bigger impact than the demonstrations by Brazilians on the streets," Santoro said.

The leaders of the Group of Seven nations said Sunday that they were preparing a plan for helping Brazil battle the fires and repair the damage.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the help would involve both technical and financial mechanisms "so that we can help them in the most effective way possible."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said her country and others will talk with Brazil about reforestation in the Amazon once the fires have been extinguished.

"Of course (this is) Brazilian territory, but we have a question here of the rainforests that is really a global question," she said. "The lung of our whole Earth is affected, and so we must find common solutions."

Fires are common during Brazil's dry season, but this year has set an alarming record. The country's National Space Research Institute, which monitors deforestation, has recorded more than 77,000 wildfires in Brazil this year. That is an 85% rise over last year, and about half of the fires have been in the Amazon region.

"We've had eight months without any type of concrete action in defense of the Amazon," said Rómulo Batista, a member of Greenpeace Brazil's Amazonia Campaign. He said the flames licking over swaths of the Amazon are a reflection of Bolsonaro's environmental policy.

"The government created a sense of impunity among farmers who were willing to commit illegal acts to deforest," he said.

"Thousands of species of plants and animals are being killed, many of them that we don't even know. The population of nearby cities is suffering terrible damage because they're breathing that air and it's causing them respiratory problems. And the rise in deforestation can completely alter the rain patterns by region and devastate agriculture, even in South America."

Bolsonaro has argued with critics who note that the Amazon produces vast amounts of oxygen and is considered crucial for efforts to contain climate change. But Batista predicts the fires will prove a turning point and the pressure by G-7 leaders will shift Bolsonaro's view on the environment.

Brazil's federal police agency announced Sunday that it would investigate reports that farmers in the state of Para, one of those most affected by the blazes, had called for "a day of fire" to ignite fires Aug. 10. Local news media said a group organized the action over WhatsApp to show support for Bolsonaro's efforts to loosen environmental regulations.

Justice Minister Sergio Moro, who oversees the police, said on Twitter that Bolsonaro "asked for a rigorous investigation" and said "the criminal fires will be severely punished."

Merkel noted Bolsonaro is putting "significant forces" into the effort to save the rainforest.

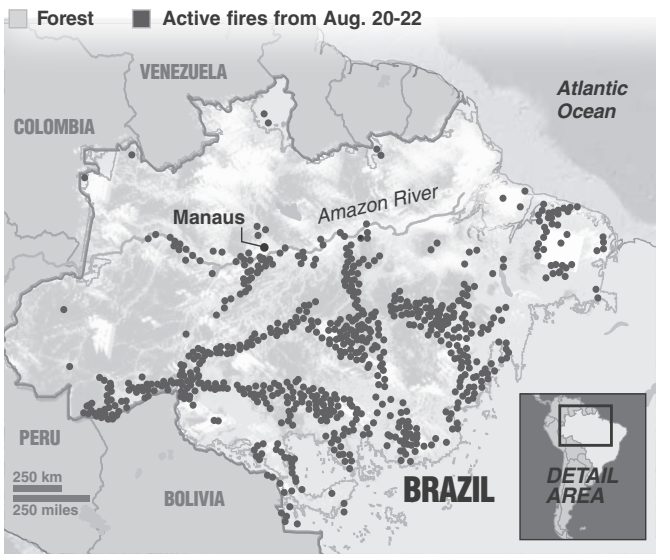
But Bolsonaro has had a tense relationship with foreign governments — including Germany's — and nongovernmental groups that he accuses of meddling in his country's management of the Amazon.

Macron's office on Friday complained that the Brazilian leader "had lied to him" about environmental commitments.

Asked if he would speak with Macron, Bolsonaro said Saturday: "If he calls me, I will answer. I am being extremely well-mannered with him even though he called me 'a liar.'"

The burning Amazon

More than 2,500 active fires are ravaging the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, the most intense blazes for almost a decade.



Source: AP, BBC, Brazil National Institute for Space Research
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Looking for a cheap date?

The **2020 Nissan Versa** may be your ride

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The 2020 Nissan Versa SV. TNS

Amazon might be America's favorite retailer, but it's not America's largest private employer. That honor belongs to Walmart, although Amazon does place second. It's sobering to think that so many Americans work for $14.26 an hour, the average Walmart wage for a full-time worker, according to the company, while the average wage of an Amazon warehouse worker is about $14 an hour, according to Glassdoor.com.

That's about $30,000 a year before taxes.

Now consider that the average price of a new car was $37,169 in July, according to KBB.com. This explains why Nissan redesigned the Versa for 2020: There's still a very real need for affordable basic transportation in the United States.

While the Versa was once cheapest car in America, that's no longer the case. Yet, starting at $14,730 for the Versa S with a standard—if outdated—five-speed manual transmission, it's still among the cheapest. Opting for the automatic transmission Versa will set you back at least $16,400, although it's standard on both the mid-level SV trim, which starts at $17,640, and the top-of-the-line SR with its $18,240 price tag.

If that still seems spendy, keep in mind it's an astonishing 60% less than the average price of a new car.

Yet for 2020, the Nissan Versa has never been a more tempting proposition thanks not only to its low price but also for its flashy new wardrobe. Looking much like a pint-sized Altima, the Versa wears Nissan's trademark V-motion grille, floating roof and C-pillar design cues worn by its larger siblings. It's a welcome change from its dowdy predecessor, which was actually designed for China; Nissan federalized the car for the U.S. Once it did, the United States quickly became the car's biggest market.

Although the new Versa still uses the previous Versa's platform, the 2020 model is 1.6-inches longer and 1.8-inches wider, yet 2.3-inch lower in height than the 2019 model. As you might expect, headroom decreases slightly while front seat legroom increases by nearly three inches. Of course, now that China is no longer the Versa's biggest market, rear seat room — a Chinese priority — has taken a big hit. Now measuring a mere 31 inches, space has shriveled by more than 16% in the 2020 Versa. You have to wonder since the extra length went since it didn't go to the trunk, which sees a 0.3 cubic foot decline in space. And yet you may not notice it once seated inside. With a little accommodation from front seat occupants, the rear seat proves adequate.

But American priorities differ from the Chinese, so you'll be interested to know that the Versa is crammed with an impressive array of driver assistance safety features, like automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, rear automatic braking, lane departure warning and high beam assist. SV and SR models also get blind spot warning and rear cross traffic alert.

And there's a decent list of standard stuff, like automatic headlights, power windows with driver's one-touch auto up/down, speed-sensing auto door locks, front map lights, front door map pockets with bottle holder, dual front and rear cupholders, cruise control, illuminated steering wheel controls for audio and cruise control, remote keyless entry, and rear view monitor. But there are items missing, such as a center console bin to rest your arm on. In fact, a driver's armrest is optional. Yet there's no need to opt for it since it's placed too high for comfort.

The cabin feels more upscale than its frumpy predecessor thanks to its leatherette-clad instrument panel, glossy interior accents and 7.0-inch color touchscreen. A four-speaker AM/FM audio system with Bluetooth, three USB ports and a power point are standard, while NissanConnect featuring Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and SiriusXM Satellite Radio are added on SV and SR models.

A double-overhead-cam 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine generates 122 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque through a continuously variable automatic transmission, although a five-speed transmission is offered on base S models. Power is adequate for a grocery getter, but like many vehicles with CVT transmissions, the engine feels sluggish off the line as it moans, reluctantly responding to requests for more power. This makes entering a highway a slow and sometimes terrifying affair. Fuel economy is OK, but not stellar. Driving more than 400 miles over the course of a week netted 32 mpg. Steering does return some road feel however, and braking is sufficient. The front independent and rear torsion beam suspension returns an acceptable ride for a subcompact, but this is far from a stimulating drive.

Certainly the 2020 Versa is better than the car it replaces, feeling less like a penalty box and more like a real car. But this segment boasts a number of strong competitors, such as the Honda Fit, Chevrolet Sonic, Hyundai Accent, Kia Rio and Toyota Yaris.

Cars in this class are rarely known for their driving excellence. It's all about value for the money, and in that regard, the Versa is hard to match. Even in top SR trim with every option, you won't break $20,000. And while that's not exactly chump change for most of us, in an era where the average vehicle's price is nearly twice that, the 2020 Nissan Versa seems hard to resist — as long as you're not a driving enthusiast.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Nissan Versa SV

- Base price: $17,640
- Engine: DOHC 1.6-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower/Torque: 122/114@4,000 rpm
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 32/40 mpg
- Fuel required: Regular
- Wheelbase/Length/Width: 103.1/177/68.5 inches
- Ground clearance: 6.8 inches
- Cargo capacity: 14.3 cubic feet

UNDER THE HOOD: Oil life indicator gives better guidance than lube joint sticker

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Q: My Honda Civic has a computer that estimates remaining oil life. That usually indicates I have about 50% oil life left when I reach the mileage indicated on my windshield sticker for my next oil change. The sticker is placed there by the repair shop doing the oil change. Should I follow the instructions of the manufacturer/car computer or the repair shop/windshield sticker?

—Tim

A: Your Honda, like many vehicles, utilizes a sophisticated algorithm based on engine operating conditions such as speed, engine temperature, ambient temperature, and runtime in order to predict oil life. This provides a much more accurate estimate of oil condition than miles or time alone. I try to change my oil at perhaps 20% calculated life remaining, sometimes less. 50% is doing more to pump up the service provider's bottom line than to protect your engine!

Q: When replacing your battery, can you hook up the battery charger leads to your positive and negative cables so you won't have to re-install radio settings, etc.?

—Bruce B.

A: I wouldn't recommend this. It would likely work but without the battery being present to absorb the possibly erratic electrical noise emitted by some chargers, it's possible damage or corruption could result to sensitive vehicle components or their software.

A safer alternative would be a "memory saver," a device that connects a small battery to the accessory/lighter socket, or better yet the data link connector (DLC, a sixteen terminal under-dash connector used with a scan tool for vehicle diagnosis).

Many accessory/lighter sockets aren't active when the key is off. There are also cables that connect the DLC to another vehicle's accessory socket, or perhaps one on a jumper pack. A consumer grade battery powered memory saver typically has wimpy capacity, so resist opening doors or operating anything that may wake up vehicle systems while it's in use (wait 30 minutes after connecting it and departing the vehicle before removing battery terminals)

Q: I have always loved cars and worked on them quite a bit when I was younger, mostly out of need. Last 30 years I have done well enough to drive good or great cars.

I would like to take classes and learn to work on cars in a serious manner; however, the auto schools around me are only pretty much full-time, and not much is offered in the evening. Quitting work at this stage or doing classes in the daytime is not an option.

Is there a way for me to learn to work on cars in a part-time manner?

—Nimo

A: Take a look online at www.yourmechanic.com "10 best online certification programs." Most listed would provide useful information, regardless of whether you want to become certified.

Another possibility is curling up with a good book such as "Automotive Service: Inspection, Maintenance and Repair" by Tim Gilles. This is a widely used automotive textbook, and Tim does a great job with it; the fifth edition is the most recent. ASE certification booklets on the various systems (brakes, engines, transmissions, etc.) can also provide pretty current technology information.

Life & Style

Plácido Domingo gets standing ovation at Salzburg

By COLLEEN BARRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALZBURG, Austria (AP)—Plácido Domingo received a standing ovation as he took to the stage at the Salzburg Festival on Sunday, a concerted show of support at his first performance since nine women accused him of sexual harassment in a report by The Associated Press.

Domingo and his co-stars in a concert of Verdi's tragic opera "Luisa Miller" all shared in 10 minutes of applause at the end of the show -- but a standing ovation at the start of the show was for the 78-year-old opera legend alone. The singers walked out single file and the applause intensified as Domingo, second to last, appeared from behind the curtain, growing to a crescendo until most of the house was on its feet.

Domingo

"Wonderful public, good performance all, I mean so much love from the public," Domingo said after the show as he signed autographs at a side entrance for dozens of fans, many whom said they have followed the opera legend for decades.

The Domingo accusations have divided the opera world. Two U.S. opera houses immediately canceled planned appearances. European opera houses have so far confirmed engagements scheduled through November 2020, in what some see as an effort to slow a perceived rush to judgment in the #MeToo movement.

At the Salzburg Festival, the divide was largely viewed as geographical, with many seeing the seeing the case as a virulent form of particularly American political correctness and expressing outrage that U.S. engagements had been canceled without any judicial evidence of the claims, and with eight of the accusers maintaining anonymity.

"Domingo has wiped aside all the lies. He was great," said Michael Burggasser, a German literature teacher in Vienna, who says he has appeared as an extra in productions featuring Domingo in the past.

"It was an outstanding performance," Burggasser said. "But it was also a public rehabilitation of Mr. Domingo. Because when the people stood up in the beginning and cheered for him - that expresses their support for him. And this great man deserved it. These accusations are ridiculous and just not true."

Domingo received unwavering support from the festival, as well as his co-stars. Both soprano Nino Machaidze and tenor Piotr Beczala praised Domingo and the audience for their support as they greeted fans after the show.

'Angel Has Fallen' tops box office with $21.3 million debut

NEW YORK (AP)—"Angel Has Fallen" easily topped the box office with a $21.3 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday, as the action sequel became the latest mid-budget release to find modest success in the often quiet late summer.

The Lionsgate film beat expectations going into the weekend, opening similarly to the previous 2016 installment "London Has Fallen." The film series stars Gerard Butler as a Secret Service agent protecting the U.S. president played by Morgan Freeman. In "Angel Has Fallen," Butler's agent is wrongly accused of trying to assassinate the president.

Going back to 2013′s "Olympus Has Fallen," the franchise has been a quietly consistent performer, taking in roughly $200 million worldwide each time. "Angel Has Fallen," produced for about $40 million by Millennium Films, is poised for a similar course, opening just shy of the $21.6 million "London Has Fallen" debut.

David Spitz, president of domestic distribution for Lionsgate, pointed to the film's A-minus CinemaScore and 94% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes (far better than the 39% critic score) as good word-of-mouth harbingers for the continued playability of "Angel Has Fallen" through the last weeks of summer.

"That's a great sign that the movie is going to be theaters for a long time," Spitz said. "Over-performing this weekend and exit polls suggesting we're going to have a nice long runway is terrific."

Late August is known as a sleepy period at the box office, but it's also one of the few parts of the calendar relatively light on big-budget tentpole releases.

This image released by Lionsgate shows Gerard Butler, left and Morgan Freeman in "Angel Has Fallen," directed by Ric Roman Waugh. AP

1. "**Angel Has Fallen**," $21.3 million ($8.4 million international).
2. "**Good Boys**," $11.8 million ($3.5 million international).
3. "**Overcomer**," $8 million.
4. "**The Lion King**," $8.2 million ($30 million international).
5. "**Hobbs & Shaw**," $8.1 million ($120 million international).
6. "**Ready or Not**," $7.6 million.
7. "**The Angry Birds 2 Movie**," $6.4 million ($10.2 million international).
8. "**Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark**," $6 million ($3.5 million international).
9. "**Dora and the Lost City of Gold**," $5.2 million ($3.2 million international).
10. "**Once Upon a Time in Hollywood**," $5 million ($28 million international).

That's given some room for recent successes such as Universal's comedy hit "Good Boys," which slid to second with $11.8 million. Last week, it became the first R-rated comedy in more than three years to land at No.1. And the Lionsgate-distributed "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark" has also flourished in August, taking in $50.5 million in three weeks including $6 million this weekend.

Some of the bigger films are still expanding around the globe, though. The "Fast & Furious" spinoff "Hobbs & Shaw" opened this weekend in China—where the high-octane franchise has regularly thrived—grossing $102 million and pushing the film to a worldwide total of $588.9 million.

Disney's "The Lion King," after seven weeks of release, still ranks among the top four films domestically and has now passed $1.5 billion worldwide. That ranks ninth all time, not accounting for inflation.

However, the acclaimed Fox Searchlight horror release "Ready or Not," about a bride forced into a deadly game of hide-and-seek with her new in-laws, got off to a lackluster start. It took in $7.6 million in ticket sales and $10.6 million since opening Wednesday.

Faring better was the Christian film "Overcomer," from Sony's Affirm Films, which landed in third with an $8 million opening weekend. It also scored an A-plus CinemaScore from audiences.

Among specialty releases, Amazon's "Brittany Runs a Marathon," about a young woman (Jillian Bell) who devotes herself to running to lose weight, scored the weekend's most packed theaters. It debuted with a per-theater average of $35,194 in five locations.

And Roadside Attractions' "Peanut Butter Falcon" made an impression in expansion, taking in $3 million from 984 theaters. The film stars Zack Gottsagen, who has Down syndrome, Shia LaBeouf and Dakota Johnson.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

Model became Dior muse by knocking on his door

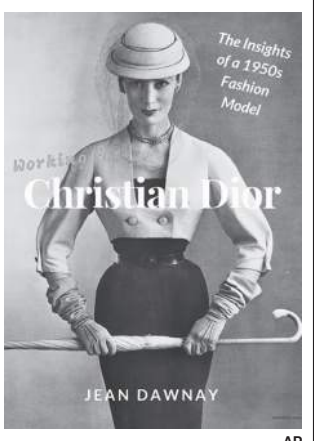
LONDON (AP)—Before there were supermodels, there were "mannequins"—living, breathing women who played an active role in designing haute couture by standing very, very still. Designers and artisans would pin, prod or tuck fabric and toiles to the mannequins to bring sketches and ideas to life.

In 1950, one such mannequin, the British model Jean Dawnay, went to work full-time in Paris at the fashion house of Christian Dior. This contract alone was enough to earn her newspaper coverage in Britain at the time, but she also wrote a book about her experiences. "Model Girl," published in 1956, went behind the scenes of fashion shows, couture houses and photoshoots, lifting the veil on the hard work that goes into glamour.

Now Dawnay's daughter, Katya Galitzine, is re-releasing a section of the memoir as "Working for Christian Dior" (Zuleika Books) to coincide with the "Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams" exhibition at the V&A Museum in London.

Galitzine says her mother arrived in France on the way back from a modeling job in Venice and spent a few days knocking on designers' doors, asking for work.

"She only went to the Houses whose perfumes she knew, because that was how she knew the names, and every single one of them wanted her, so she must have had something," Galitzine says. "I mean, she did have something. But she was very beautiful, she was very elegant. She adapted very well to whatever people wanted, and she had an 18-inch waist."



AP
This image made available by Zuleika Books shows the book cover image of 'Working For Christian Dior' by Jean Dawnay.

Although she spoke no French, Dawnay's cold calling paid off, and she accepted a contract at Dior's atelier.

"They had to clock in, like in a factory, at 9 o'clock, and then she would stand, literally stand and be pushed around and shoved around and pricked and pinned," her daughter explains.

Galitzine found one Dior dress hidden at the back of a wardrobe after her mother died in 2016.

Top publishers sue Audible over planned captioning feature

NEW YORK (AP)—Some of the country's top publishers are suing Audible, citing copyright infringement as they ask a federal judge to enjoin the audiobook producer-distributor's planned use of captions for an education-driven program.

The so-called "Big Five" of publishing—Penguin Random House, Hachette Book Group, Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins Publishers and Macmillan Publishers—are among the plaintiffs in the suit filed Friday in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The legal action comes in response to "Audible Captions," which Audible announced in July and indicated would be formally launched as students return this fall, with titles including "Catch-22," "The Hunger Games" and "The Hate U Give."

"Audible Captions takes publishers' proprietary audiobooks, converts the narration into unauthorized text, and distributes the entire text of these 'new' digital books to Audible's customers," the lawsuit reads. "Audible's actions—taking copyrighted works and repurposing them for its own benefit without permission—are the kind of quintessential infringement that the Copyright Act directly forbids."

Other publishers suing are Scholastic and Chronicle Books.

Audible, which is owned by Amazon.com, said in a statement that it was disappointed by the lawsuit and "any implication that we have not been speaking and working with publishers about this feature, which has not yet launched."

Harvey Weinstein due back in court in sex assault case

NEW YORK (AP)—Movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is due back in court on Monday to face a new indictment that prosecutors say would open the door for an actress to testify against him in his sexual assault case.

Prosecutors say Weinstein will appear in state court in Manhattan, where he's expected to enter a not guilty plea. He has previously pleaded not guilty to charges accusing him of raping a woman in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

The new indictment against Weinstein hasn't been made public. But in court papers, prosecutors said it was needed to bring evidence involving Annabella Sciorra, best known for her work on "The Sopranos." She says Weinstein raped her inside her Manhattan apartment after she starred in a film for his movie studio in 1993.

Weinstein

Weinstein, 67, who's free on $1 million bail, has denied all accusations of non-consensual sex.

Prosecutors can't charge Weinstein with the alleged attack on Sciorra because the accusation dates to 13 years before New York eliminated its statute of limitations for rape cases in 2006. But in court papers filed this month, they told the judge the indictment will give them a legal foundation to call the actress as a witness to strengthen the predatory sexual assault charge against Weinstein.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault, but Sciorra went public with her story in a story in The New Yorker in October 2017.

Court papers filed by the defense called the attempt to make Sciorra a prosecution witness an "11th-hour maneuver" that "raises significant legal issues" that could delay the trial by several weeks.

Separately, defense attorneys are asking appeals court to move the trial case out of New York City because a "circus-like atmosphere" there fueled by news reports and social media posts. A decision on the request could come as early as Monday.

Legal questions loom as Harvey Weinstein case nears trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Can someone as notorious in the #MeToo era as Harvey Weinstein get a fair trial in the world's media capital?

That's one of the legal questions looming over the sexual assault case against the movie mogul with jury selection scheduled for early next month.

Weinstein's lawyers want the trial moved from New York City to Long Island or upstate New York—part of the last-minute wrangling that includes efforts by prosecutors to bolster their case with testimony from actress Annabella Sciorra, who says Weinstein raped her in the 1990s. Weinstein has denied all accusations of non-consensual sex.

The maneuvers have the potential to cause further delays in an already fitful prosecution.

Some of the uncertainty could be cleared up Monday, when Weinstein is due to be arraigned on a new indictment, and an appeals court is expected to rule on a defense motion for a change of venue that prosecutors oppose.

Such motions are rarely granted. But defense lawyers argue the court should make an exception in Weinstein's case, given a "circus-like atmosphere" and "hysteria" fueled by news reports and social media posts. In court papers, they noted that their client's name was mentioned online on the New York Post's gossip column Page Six more than 11,000 times.

"It is safe to say that New York City is the least likely place on earth where Mr. Weinstein could receive a fair trial, where jurors could hear evidence, deliberate and render a verdict in an atmosphere free of intimidation from pressure to deliver a result that the politicians, the activists, the celebrities and the media demand," the lawyers wrote in court papers.

But "the publicity will be suffocating" wherever the case is tried, said Jeffrey Lichtman, a high-profile New York City attorney who is not part of the case.

Lichtman, who represented Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, called the change-of-venue bid misguided because Weinstein, he said, would probably fare better with a jury composed of more "open-minded" Manhattan residents who "might be more sympathetic to the defense that these accusers slept with Harvey with the hope of getting a movie role."

Weinstein, 67, is charged with raping a woman in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006—both of which he denies.

He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted on all counts. He is free on $1 million bail.

The new indictment against Weinstein hasn't been made public. But in court papers, prosecutors said it was needed to bring evidence involving Sciorra, best known for her work on "The Sopranos." She claims Weinstein raped her inside her Manhattan apartment after she starred in a film for his movie studio in 1993.

Women, late-in-life new authors expand Japanese literature

By ALEX BARREIRA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this July 17, 2019, photo, Natsuko Imamura, right, and Masumi Oshima pose with their books after Imamura and Oshima were awarded the Akutagawa and Naoki Prizes at a Tokyo hotel. AP

TOKYO (AP)—The works receiving one of Japan's most coveted literary awards, the Naoki Prize, have something new in common: For the first time in 85 years, all six of the nominated authors are women.

Japan is home to what many consider the world's first novel, "The Tale of Genji," written in the 11th century by noblewoman Murasaki Shikibu. Its modern fiction has been defined mostly by long-established male writers such as past Nobel laureates Kenzaburo Oe and Yasunari Kawabata. And for decades it has been dominated by Haruki Murakami, whose surreal blend of magical realism and pop culture has made him an international bestseller.

But Japanese literature is beginning to look different as new voices, including young writers, women and the elderly, receive domestic and international recognition.

On Friday, two women, Natsuko Imamura and Masumi Oshima, are being presented with the Akutagawa and Naoki prizes. Since 1935 the Akutagawa and Naoki have recognized serious and popular fiction, respectively, and provided their winners with a commemorative watch and 1 million yen (a little under $10,000). Even more valuable is the prestige its winners receive from media attention and, increasingly, a clear path to wider audiences through translation.

Consider, for instance, the 2016 rise of "Convenience Store Woman." Writer Sayaka Murata's novel inspired by her own jobs has sold more than 600,000 copies in Japan since it won the Akutagawa Prize that year. Murata, then 36, and still working part-time at a convenience store, shared the stage with actress Naomi Watanabe, known as "the Japanese Beyoncé," as one of Vogue Japan's "Women of the Year." Two years later, the English translation of Murata's novel was an editor's best-of-the-year choice by the New Yorker, the magazine that helped catapult Murakami to stardom.

"International markets grow when talent emerges," said John Freeman, who published work from Murata and Murakami as editor of the anthology "Freeman's." ''In the past two and a half decades, there's been an explosion of good writing coming from Japan. ... That wave is cresting now with writers just barely 40 years old."

Publishers in the United States and Britain are seeing a growing audience for novels in translation, experts say. Translations of half a dozen prize-winning works by female authors from Japan were published last year in the United States, with Yoko Tawada's "The Emissary" taking a 2018 National Book Award for translated work.

"The number of new voices that have been made available to Anglophone readers over the last few years has been encouraging," said David Karashima, a professor at Waseda University who has translated Akutagawa-winning fiction.

Book attempts to show how US democracy hurt Native Americans

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A new book by a noted historian attempts to show how expanding American democracy hurt Native Americans in the early days of the nation and how tribes viewed the young United States as an entity seeking to erase them from existence.

University of Oregon history professor Jeffrey Ostler's just-released "Surviving Genocide: Native Nations and the United States from the American Revolution and Bleeding Kansas" argues that the emergence of American democracy depended on the taking of Native lands.

Leaders of the fledgling nation also felt that removing Native Americans from the ancestral land—by any means necessary—was key to allowing an expanding and poorer white population to move west, the historian writes.

Ostler said he based his book on 30 years of research by other scholars in the field of Native American studies, but wanted to do a large survey of how tribes saw the looming U.S. threat.

"If I ask my students, 'Why did we have an American Revolution?' They'll say 'Taxation without representation,'" Ostler said. "But a very significant issue among the leaders of the American Revolution was that the British were blocking the colonists' access to western lands."

Future President Thomas Jefferson would even write from France that the U.S. needed a constant supply of land to grow while ignoring the people who already lived there, Ostler said.

Ostler's book is the first of two volumes on Native American history.

The book comes as scholars and writers are challenging narratives around American history and how it hurt people of color. These efforts are drawing criticism from some conservative columnists.

Most recently, The New York Times Magazine published a series of essays called The 1619 Project earlier this month around the 400th anniversary marking the beginning of American slavery. The writers argue that African Americans were the true "perfecters of this democracy" in the U.S. by continually fighting for the nation's ideals of equality and against the legacy of slavery.

Columbia University history professor Karl Jacoby called Ostler's book an exciting work in Native American history. Jacoby said it would counter the romantic story portrayed in such recent books like David McCullough's "The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West."

Historians, scholars and activists took to social media accused McCullough of romanticizing white settlement and downplaying the pain inflicted on Native Americans.

"Ostler's book is very different and gives a much more complex and accurate story about what happened," Jacoby said.

Ostler said he is working on finishing his second volume of "Surviving Genocide" which will cover the how Native Americans responded to attempts to remove and kill them in New Mexico, Arizona and the Pacific Northwest.

Jolie shares pride in son Maddox, joining Marvel movie

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Angelina Jolie says she's "so proud" that her 18-year-old son is leaving home to study biochemistry in South Korea.

The actress was seen in video released several days ago dropping her son Maddox off at Yonsei University in Seoul, and holding back tears.

"I didn't realize everybody had watched me do it," she said Saturday at the D23 expo in Anaheim, California. "It felt very private when we were there and just fun. But the school is so wonderful and we're so proud that he's there. And it's a great university and I'm just amazed I have a son who's that smart."

Jolie

Jolie is in two upcoming Disney movies: a sequel to "Maleficent" and Marvel Studios' "Eternals."

"They called me—but I was so happy. I think I just didn't see myself that way. I thought I was kind of ready to direct and sit home," Jolie said of joining "Eternals." "I was but now I'm now I'm going to be dressing in gold and jumping around."

"Eternals," which will feature actors including Salma Hayek, Brian Tyree Henry and Kumail Nanjiani, is set for release next year. It's directed by filmmaker Chloe Zhao, until now best known for critically acclaimed indie films like "The Rider."

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson takes honeymoon to D23

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—The Rock is honeymooning at a Disney convention.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson got married last weekend in Hawaii to longtime partner Lauren Hashian—and then spent Saturday promoting "Jungle Cruise" at the D23 Expo in Anaheim, California.

He says his new wife didn't mind.

"She loved it because she knows D23— as she knows—is named after me. Dwayne. That's where the D comes from," Johnson joked on a red carpet at the convention. "We had a great wedding. Yes. It was really beautiful."

Johnson partnered with Emily Blunt to make the movie based on the Disneyland ride, set to be released next year.

Blunt said her favorite moment making the film came during a comedic bit with Johnson while escaping an "Amazonian tribe."

"The dialogue that happens and the comedy that happened in that—we could not make it through a take without laughing. So I have such a fond memory of it. It was like agony to try and get through the scene," Blunt said.

Johnson added: "It gave me so much joy to make her laugh so hard that the takes were ruined."

"Jungle Cruise," directed by Jaume Collet-Serra and also starring Paul Giamatti and Jack Whitehall is to be released next summer.

Dave Chappelle hosts concert to honor Ohio shooting victims

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Thousands turned out to a benefit hosted by comedian Dave Chappelle that honored victims of a mass shooting in Ohio.

The star-studded "Gem City Shine" took place Sunday in Dayton's Oregon District, the historic neighborhood that was marred by a 32-second rampage that killed nine people and left dozens injured Aug. 4.

Stevie Wonder headlined the event, which also featured Chance the Rapper and Talib Kweli, among other musicians, news outlets reported.

The event was designed to raise both spirits as well as money for the victims and survivors of the shooting.

"Don't forget what this place is about! Mankind learned how to fly in this city," Chappelle told the crowd. "Don't forget what this place is about. When the rest of the country was all slavery, everybody was free in Ohio."

Chappelle, who lives in nearby Yellow Springs, was treated to a rendition of "Happy Birthday" by attendees, instigated by comedian Jon Stewart.

Earlier Sunday, Kanye West hosted a Sunday Service in a Dayton park. The service for victims featured choir singers and was also attended by Chappelle.

Sunday evening's event contributed to helping the community heal, business owners said.

"It's reclaiming Dayton. We don't want anybody to be scared," Abby Beach told the Dayton Daily News. "We want everyone to know it's an exciting and fun-loving community."

Mayor Nan Whaley says no taxpayer money was used for the benefit. The mayor and the chamber of commerce raised funds for security and Chappelle donated the stage and secured talent, she said.

"And the least we can do, Dave, is we have declared it Dave Chappelle day in Dayton, Ohio," Whaley said on stage Sunday night.

Fund backed by DiCaprio pledges $5M to Amazon amid fires

Neri dos Santos Silva, center, watches an encroaching fire threat after digging trenches to keep the flames from spreading to the farm he works on, in the Nova Santa Helena municipality, in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 23, 2019. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—A new environmental foundation backed by Leonardo DiCaprio is pledging $5 million in aid to the Amazon, which has been swept by wildfires .

Earth Alliance was created last month by DiCaprio and philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth. On Sunday, it launched the Amazon Forest Fund in an announcement on their website. The alliance is also seeking donations to help repair the Brazilian rainforest, called the "lungs of the planet."

Brazilian federal experts reported a record number of wildfires across the country this year, up 84% over the same period in 2018.

The funds will be distributed to five local groups working to combat the problem: Instituto Associacao Floresta Protegida, Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon, Instituto Kabu, Instituto Raoni, and Instituto Socioambiental.

Kanye West hosts service honoring Ohio mass shooting victims

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Kanye West hosted a Sunday Service in Ohio in support of those affected by the recent mass shooting.

A large crowd gathered at the musician's service in a park in Dayton. The event featured choir singers and was also attended by comedian Dave Chappelle.

Chappelle, who resides in nearby Yellow Springs, was scheduled to host a special block party and benefit concert later Sunday in Dayton for those affected by the shooting. That event was expected to feature national and local entertainers.

Organizers of Sunday night's "Gem City Shine" event say it would be an effort to "reclaim" the entertainment district where 24-year-old Connor Betts' 32-second rampage killed nine people and left dozens injured on Aug. 4.

Single mother by choice wants positive support from friends

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single woman who has always wanted children. As much as I would've liked, marriage isn't in the cards for me yet and maybe not ever, which I've accepted.

I have decided to not allow my single status to prevent me from becoming a mother. I have spent years hearing my friends and family tell me how great being a parent is and how I'm missing out. In fact, there was a time or two when I felt certain people were trying to make me feel inadequate. After careful consideration, I chose to utilize donor sperm.

I am now 40 and expecting my first child, and I couldn't be happier. The only thing I find upsetting is that those same friends who spent years telling me how great motherhood is and asking when I would have children, now speak of nothing but the tribulations of motherhood—the pain of delivery, the fatigue, the expense, and how they couldn't do it alone, etc.

I'm an educated woman in a profession that pays well, and I consider myself to be fortunate. I didn't decide to become a single mother on a whim. I don't know what to expect but want to think positive and enjoy my pregnancy. I'm confused and hurt by my friends' reactions now that I am pregnant. Is it the pregnancy hormones, or do I need to distance myself from these friends?

CONFOUNDED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR CONFOUNDED: Parenting involves many emotions—some of them conflicting. It's a joy, an adventure, a challenge and a commitment. The experience is also an individual one.

You are a mature person and financially secure. If you need help with your child, you can get it. Please do not allow yourself to be intimidated by what these "friends" are sharing, and do not seek their validation. I'm not implying you should distance yourself and end the relationships, because you may welcome some of their advice in the future. Remember, this journey is one you have thoughtfully chosen.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is an only child. When his parents retired, his mother, who was always social, stayed home with his dad because he wanted her home with him. Because of this, she spent a great deal of time texting my husband.

My father-in-law passed away recently, and the texting has increased. It goes on all day, every day, even after we go to bed. I want to be sensitive to the fact that everyone is getting used to the new normal without my father-in-law, but the constant phone buzzing and interruptions are getting old.

My husband is defensive about the texting. We have a happy marriage, and I want to keep it that way. How should I handle this?

OVERLOADED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR OVERLOADED: Your husband, rather than you, should handle his mother. Because your father-in-law's death is recent, she may need time to adjust to being alone. If her constant, intrusive texting persists beyond a reasonable amount of time, he should suggest that she cut back. He should also encourage her to re-establish the friendships and activities she gave up for her husband and, if necessary, consider joining a grief support group. Her doctor or religious adviser can suggest one that would be appropriate for her.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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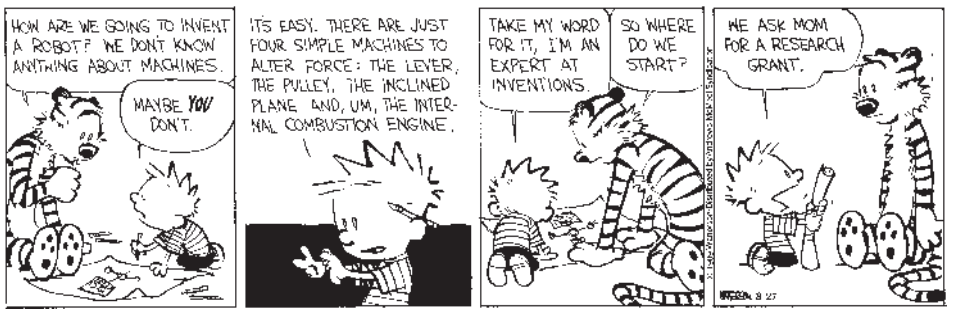
Pastimes

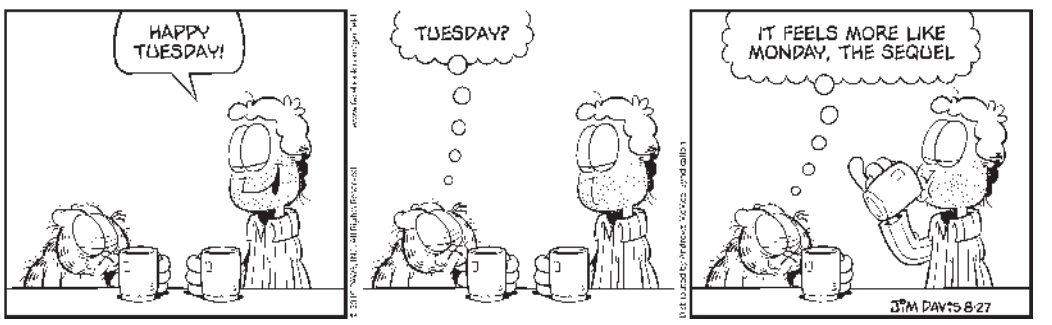
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW ARE WE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT? WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MACHINES.
MAYBE YOU DON'T.
IT'S EASY. THERE ARE JUST FOUR SIMPLE MACHINES TO ALTER FORCE: THE LEVER, THE PULLEY, THE INCLINED PLANE, AND, UM, THE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE.
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, I'M AN EXPERT AT INVENTIONS.
SO WHERE DO WE START?
WE ASK MOM FOR A RESEARCH GRANT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



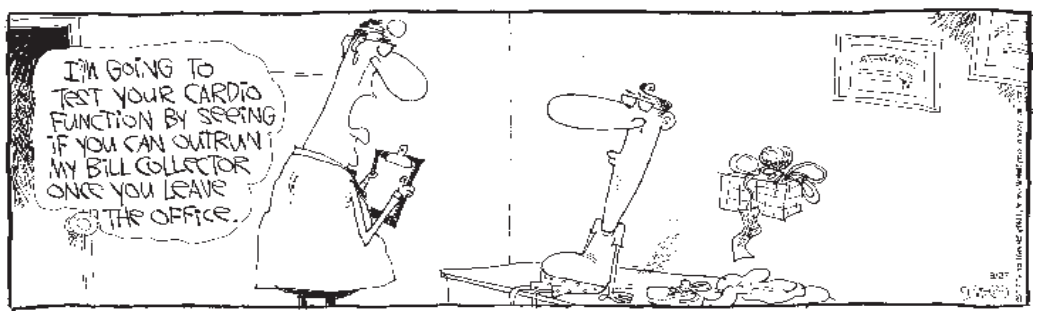
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU WEREN'T GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE NEW ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PLACE??
I... I WASN'T. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE IT.
BUT I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE MORE FAITH IN YOUR SELF-CONTROL AND YOUR...
WHERE'D HE GO?
HE GRABBED HIS KEYS AND SHOT OUT OF HERE LIKE A FOOD-SEEKING MISSILE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jack's companion
5 Standard
8 Rams fans?
12 Notion
13 Before
14 Zilch
15 Relief for achy tootsies
17 Bleak
18 Decks in the ring
19 Chopin pieces
21 West Pointer
24 Hammer target
25 Writer Kingsley
26 Shoeless
30 Run after K
31 Army bigwigs
32 HST follower
33 Track event
35 Floral rings
36 Rope fiber
37 Library transactions
38 Modifying word
41 Legislation
42 Chicago paper, briefly
43 Speed demon's attribute
48 Scrabble piece
49 PC key
50 Writer Quindlen
51 Tarzan's clique
52 Pigs' digs
53 Frog's relative

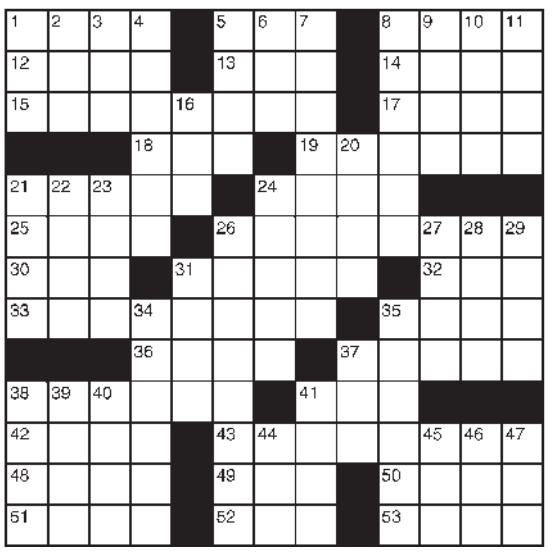
DOWN

1 Skippy rival
2 Altar promise
3 Zodiac feline
4 Deli pancakes
5 Stew veggies
6 Louvre collection
7 Practice, theatrically
8 Surround
9 City district
10 Actress Falco
11 Waterston and Raimi
16 Automaton, for short
20 Affiliations
21 Baby elephant
22 Bullets
23 Flintstones' pet
24 Civil-rights org.
26 Prickly shrubs
27 Classic theaters
28 Valhalla VIP
29 Hardy heroine
31 Rabbit's title
34 Ancient Nile city
35 Yogurt variety
37 Young bloke
38 "— girl!"
39 Faucet problem
40 Loathsome
41 Like some lingerie
44 Superlative suffix
45 Lennon's lady
46 — whim
47 Wee bit

Solution time: 22 mins.

G	A	L		S	W	E	A	R		L	E	T
A	S	E		T	H	E	R	E		C	L	O
S	H	A	K	E	A	L	E	G		N	B	A
			A	N	T		G	I	R	D	E	D
P	O	T	I	O	N		C	N	E	A		
A	R	A		S	O	T		A	P	H	I	D
L	A	K	E		T	I	L		S	A	K	E
E	N	E	R	O		P	A	N		N	E	A
		A	L	B	S		D	O	C	D	A	D
P	O	K	E	A	T		D	N	A			
U	R	N		M	A	D	E	A	F	A	C	E
T	S	E		A	L	A	R	M		N	U	T
T	O	E		S	E	N	S	E		Y	E	S

Yesterday's answer 8-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kayla Ewell, 34; Aaron Paul, 40; Sarah Chalke, 43; Chandra Wilson, 50.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change, and look for new opportunities this year. Get involved in projects that will help build strong ties with people who share your concerns. Spend more time nurturing important relationships and aiming to make healthy choices. Feeling good should be a priority, and surrounding yourself with like-minded people will pay off. Learn from mistakes, and move forward with optimism. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 25, 29, 36, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep busy. Idle time will lead to emotional mayhem regarding changes you face at home or work. Refuse to let your personal and professional lives interfere with each other. Finish what you start. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Go over every detail personally. If you leave someone else in charge, you will be disappointed with what transpires. Concentrate on personal and physical goals that will improve your health, update your look or improve your love life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen, but don't let anyone persuade you into something you cannot afford or do not want to do. A partnership based on empty promises needs evaluation and adjustments made before you proceed. Personal improvements are favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Size up your situation, and make changes that will help you reach your destination. Your life journey should take you to a place that brings peace of mind, not negativity, rigidity and control issues. Do what's best for yourself. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Choose your associates with care. Your reputation may suffer if you tag along with someone who has bad habits or a lack of willpower and discipline. Strive to be your best. Make a self-improvement project your top priority. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change of scenery will have a positive effect on your attitude and how you handle your affairs. Try something new, or check into finishing an old project that's been sitting on the shelf for too long. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Focus on what you can do. Look at the big picture, and put a strategy in place that will have the most significant impact with the least amount of consequence. Creating balance will be the key to your success. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn from mistakes you've made, and know when to take a pass or walk away from someone who doesn't share the same values. Clear the passageway; you will find the success and happiness you've been searching for. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Go over your finances, contracts or personal matters that can influence your lifestyle. See where you can cut back, reorganize and recycle. Putting everything in its place emotionally, financially and legally will ease stress. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do whatever it takes to get what you want. Negotiate, invest time in what you want to see happen and focus on being and doing your very best. A positive change will lift your spirits and inspire you to keep moving forward. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make necessary changes only. If you follow what someone else is doing, you will be disappointed with the result. It's time to help yourself instead of always giving in to what others want you to do. Make your preference clear. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Consider how to help others. If you give too much or let someone take advantage of you, it will end up costing you time, money and self-respect. Focus on equalizing your relationships instead of trying to impress or buy love. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, ambitious and flexible. You are energetic and optimistic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		2		4			3	6
8					1			
				6				9
	9		6		2			
1		6				9		2
			7		3		6	
6				2				
				8				3
7	4			5		2		1

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	8	9	3	4	6	1	5	7
3	5	7	1	8	9	4	2	6
4	1	6	2	7	5	3	8	9
6	4	5	7	3	2	9	1	8
1	3	8	9	5	4	6	7	2
7	9	2	8	6	1	5	3	4
9	7	4	5	1	8	2	6	3
8	6	1	4	2	3	7	9	5
5	2	3	6	9	7	8	4	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PARAFFIN WAX — Solution: 9 letters

E	S	S	D	N	A	H	H	B	E	N	E	F	I	T
N	L	S	T	R	M	U	E	L	O	R	T	E	P	D
A	A	E	O	M	Y	A	A	A	N	I	K	S	E	R
K	C	L	C	F	U	E	T	M	P	N	A	N	E	L
L	K	R	C	T	T	R	A	S	O	S	R	T	L	U
A	C	O	Y	M	R	N	A	B	A	U	G	Y	G	B
S	A	L	O	N	I	I	R	P	B	L	N	N	E	R
L	N	O	E	C	W	A	C	N	W	A	I	A	T	I
I	D	C	U	A	C	T	F	A	T	T	T	M	S	C
O	L	R	R	O	N	R	X	F	L	I	T	R	I	A
E	E	M	R	A	D	Y	A	E	I	O	O	E	M	T
L	S	D	L	I	N	K	M	Y	R	N	P	G	E	I
A	Y	A	L	E	U	Q	A	P	O	I	I	E	H	O
H	E	O	D	O	R	L	E	S	S	N	F	S	C	N
S	S	E	L	E	T	S	A	T	I	S	S	U	E	S

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Affinis, Alkane, Beauty, Benefit, Burned, Candles, Chemist, Clean, Coal, Colorless, Crayons, Dry, Electrical, Feet, Fire, Germany, Hands, Heat, Hydrocarbon, Ink, Insulation, Last, Lubrication, Manicure, Melting, Odorless, Opaque, Parum, Peel, Petroleum, Potting, Salon, Sealant, Shale Oil, Skin, Slack, Soft, Solid, Spa, Tasteless, Tissues, Warm, Waxy

Yesterday's Answer: Champions

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CLASSIFIED ADS

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - $8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer needs and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and receive and process cash or credit payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental. Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Maintenance Technicians $8.33 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as hammers, hoists, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- o High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- o At least 12months experience.
- o Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills power circular saws and pullers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670) 234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) **Auto Technician** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Counter Clerks** - $7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Degree;
- At least 06 months experience;
- Must be a computer literate

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers, Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(06) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(05) SERVICE TECHNICIAN- $10.58 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40hrs.a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Measure, cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in hangers or other supports. Cut or drill holes in walls or floors to accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins, repair and replace fixtures and water heaters, and locate, repair, or remove leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe fitters in the layout, assembly, and installation of piping for air, ammonia, gas, and water systems. Cut pipe and lift up to fitters. Fit or assist in fitting valves, couplings, or assemblies to tanks, pumps, or systems, using hand tools. Requisition tools and equipment, select type and size of the pipe, and collect and transport materials and equipment to work site. Mount brackets and hangers on walls and ceilings to hold pipes, and set sleeves or inserts to provide support for pipes. Excavate and grade ditches, and lay and join pipe for water and sewer service. Disassemble and remove the damaged or worn pipe.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - $9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Civil Engineering Technician $14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimentions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimentional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum 24 months experience
- Civil Engineering license or equivalent

All interested applicants can send resume to:info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) NURSERY WORKER
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Take care of nursery plants, including propagation and maintenance, proper storage and use fertilizer, and proper storage and application of insecticides. Experience with propagation and care of orchids highly desirable, as well as experience with tropical plants and general nursery related duties.

(3) LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDSKEEPING WORKERS
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned.

All positions close 5:00pm on Thursday, September 12, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer. The potential applicants/ May directly apply to Wireless Ridge Landscaping, contacting us at (670) 234-3926 or through email address Mondays through Fridays and is open between 8:00am to 5:00pm for all related recruitment process.

WHATZIT Solution: Fiddler on the Roof

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance & Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants, pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC
1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary $13.87 to $19.00

Interested applicants, pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

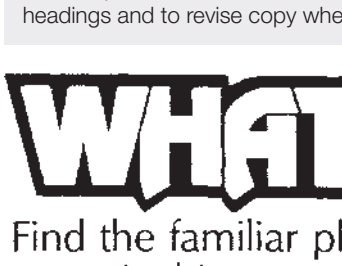
(2) Beautician – Skilled in all areas of beauty treatments such as hair cut, hair colors/highlights/rebonding; waxing, manicure & pedicure,acrylic nails. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises corp. dba
Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building, Beach Road,
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)235-7270

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Inventory Clerk – Atleast 12 months experience in Inventory Control. Excellent math and analytical skills.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Dba Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building,
Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa,
Saipan MP 96950
Tel. 235-7270



CHARLENE MANGLONA LIZAMA
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Commercial Cleaner - High School Diploma and at least 2 years work experience. salary $7.30/ per hr.
Interested applicants please call 287-3223
email:vicelizama@yahoo.com

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McIlroy joins Woods as 2-time FedEx Cup champ

AP
Rory McIlroy hits out of a bunker on the 18th green during the final round of the Tour Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta. McIlroy won the tournament and the FedEx Cup.

ATLANTA—Rory McIlroy marched to the 18th green Sunday at East Lake with victory in hand and $15 million in the bank.

Even better was what he saw—and heard—behind him.

The scene was all too familiar. The gallery ducked under the ropes and rushed to encircle the green to watch the finish of a class performance in the Tour Championship. Before long, the chants began to ring out: "Rory! Rory! Rory!"

A mere bystander last year amid the chaotic celebration of Tiger Woods' return to victory, McIlroy soaked up the perfect ending to a solid year when he surged past Brooks Koepka, held off Xander Schauffele and captured the FedEx Cup and the richest payoff in golf.

Turning to Harry Diamond, his caddie and best friend, McIlroy told him, "This walk is a little more pleasant than last year."

He closed with a 4-under 66 to finish four shots ahead of Schauffele, joining Woods as the only players to win the FedEx Cup twice.

"Any time you can do something that only Tiger has done, you're doing something right," McIlroy said.

There was so much more than $15 million—$14 million in cash, $1 million deferred—to this victory.

Regardless of the new format that gave some players a head start to par depending on their FedEx Cup ranking—McIlroy began five shots behind before the tournament started—he wanted to post the lowest score of anyone in the 30-man field.

He shot 13-under 267, the best by three shots.

And when he was paired with Koepka in the final group Sunday, it was a chance for atonement. A month ago, McIlroy laid an egg in the final group at a World Golf Championship, just like he did with Woods the year before at East Lake.

"I thought a lot about that," McIlroy said. "I thought about the final group with Tiger last year, the final group with Brooks in Memphis a few weeks ago, and I really wanted to go out there and play well and really take it to him, and I did that."

The final round turned on the seventh hole with a three-shot swing—McIlroy made a 25-foot birdie, while Koepka lost his tee shot in the trees and made double bogey. There were consecutive two-shot swings on the back nine, and then it was a matter of holding off Schauffele.

McIlroy was four shots ahead until back-to-back bogeys, and he was on the verge of watching his lead shrink to one when he holed an 8-foot par putt on the 16th. Schauffele had to settle for pars, and McIlroy finished with a flourish.

He was the only player to break par all four days.

Schauffele closed with a 70 to finish alone in second, which paid out $5 million.

"There was plenty of excitement today," Schauffele said. "The heart rate was up for most of the round. I thought the course was set up really fair, and if you were in the fairway, it was gettable. And if you weren't, it was exactly what you thought it was. It was just a lot of fun."

Justin Thomas, the No. 1 seed in the FedEx Cup who started with a two-shot lead, lost his way Sunday morning in the conclusion of the third round when he took triple bogey on the 16th hole with a 9-iron from the fairway. He fell four behind and never caught up. Thomas finished with two birdies for a 68 and tied for third with Koepka, who ended another big year with a pedestrian closing round of 72.

They each earned $3.5 million.

As usual with Koepka, there were no complaints, no excuses.

"He just played better," said Koepka, who hit only five fairways in the last round. "He was impressive to watch. He put it in the fairway a lot, hit a lot of greens. And even his short game, the up-and-down he made on 11, that was pretty tasty right there. And then the way he finished it off was very impressive. Hats off to him."

What looked to be a shootout turned into a runaway for McIlroy.

The marathon final day—31 holes for McIlroy and contenders—began with big promise for a wild chase for the $15 million prize. Four players took turns atop the leaderboard in the first 35 minutes of golf Sunday morning, which included Schauffele's first hole-in-one of his career with a 5-iron on the 240-yard ninth hole.

The third round had been suspended Saturday after lightning struck a tree and injured six spectators huddled nearby. Police said they were treated and released from medical attention later that night.

Koepka birdied the 18th for a one-shot lead over McIlroy and Schauffele. It was tight for the first hour of the final round, and then it turned quickly.

Koepka was still up by one shot when he yanked his tee shot into the trees left of No. 7 and never found it. He made double bogey, and it became a three-shot swing when McIlroy made a 25-foot birdie putt.

The decisive moment was consecutive two-shot swings—McIlroy birdied Nos. 12 and 13, Koepka missed short par putts on both.

Luck finds cost of football too pricey to continue career

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Andrew Luck was unique.

He loved football. He loves life even more.

So when the 29-year-old Luck thought another long, laborious comeback journey jeopardized his future, he believed walking away from the sport and potentially hundreds of millions of dollars was the only logical choice.

"For the last four years or so, I've been in this cycle of injury, pain, rehab — injury, pain, rehab—and it's been unceasing, unrelenting, both in season and off season," Luck said following Saturday night's loss to the Chicago Bears. "I felt stuck in it, and the only way I see out is to no longer play football. It's taken my joy of this game away."

The announcement and the timing—two weeks before the Indianapolis Colts' season opener against the Los Angeles Chargers—shocked the football world.

But this was not a spur-of-the-moment decision.

After three injury-plagued seasons, Luck returned last year with a new perspective about the physical pain, mental fatigue and emotional agony it took to keep fighting his way back. Late last summer, he described his state of mind throughout the continual rehab with words such as "sad," ″ miserable" and "scared."

Last month, as the lingering pain in his lower left leg forced him off the practice field yet again, Luck told reporters that he promised himself after playing through the shoulder pain in 2016 and missing the entire 2017 season, he would be honest with himself, his coaches, teammates and the organization about how his body felt.

At the time, Luck said he thought even limited practices were detrimental to himself and the team.

"It took great courage to make his decision to walk away from the game, but no matter how difficult he did what his heart told him and I am proud of him for being honest with himself and the team," said former Colts coach Chuck Pagano, now the defensive coordinator for the Bears. "With Andrew it was always about more than football."

While some fans booed Luck as he left the field Saturday night, other players supported him. They understand how dangerous and debilitating the sport can be, which is why some are quitting at earlier ages.

Luck just happens to be the biggest name yet on that expanding list.

"I think it takes an immense amount of courage, an immense amount of self-reflection and a lot of guts to do what he is doing," Houston defensive end J.J. Watt said. "I am sure people have their ways of looking at it and their ways of trying to say what they would do in his shoes. But the truth is, no one is in his shoes. Nobody has to go through what he has had to go through. Nobody has been through the rehab and the injuries. ... I respect the hell out of it. I think it takes a whole lot to walk away from a ton of money like that."

Colts let Luck keep bonus money

On his way out the door, the Indianapolis Colts gave Luck an immense parting gift: $24.8 million in bonus money that could have been clawed back by the team following his sudden retirement.

A decision that—if you read between the lines—cracks a door open in case Luck wants to resume his football career.

A league source confirmed that Colts owner Jim Irsay surrendered his collectively bargained right to recoup a massive portion of unearned bonus money from Luck. Irsay's gesture will allow the quarterback to keep the entirety of his remaining prorated signing bonus—$12.8 million—and another $12 million in guaranteed roster bonus money that was paid out to Luck six months ago.

Luck was open to returning at least a portion of the money that had been paid to him. But Irsay declined to go that route, instead allowing Luck to keep everything that had been paid out through this offseason. That ultimately places Luck's final cash earnings at nearly $100 million over the span of his seven-year career.

Did the Colts do it sheerly out of public relations and respect for Luck, or is this a move with a design on wooing the star quarterback to return in a year or two?

Interestingly, that $24.8 million is the largest amount of prorated bonus money ever surrendered by a franchise to a player following his retirement.

Yankees slug 3 HRs to beat Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—DJ LeMahieu, Aaron Judge and Mike Ford homered, Domingo Germán outdueled Clayton Kershaw for his major league-leading 17th win, and the New York Yankees defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 Sunday.

The Yankees set a major league record for most homers in a month with 61 in August. They slugged nine in taking two of three games in a series touted as a potential World Series preview to remain tied with Houston for the best record in the American League at 85-47.

Germán (17-3) allowed one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. The right-hander struck out five and walked two.

New York won its 11th straight game against a left-handed starter and is 25-14 versus lefties this season.

Kershaw (13-3) gave up three homers for the second straight game and has allowed 21 this season, second-most in his career. The left-hander allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings. He struck out a season-high 12 and walked none.

Kershaw had won 11 consecutive interleague decisions—tied for second-most all-time—and each of his last six decisions overall.

Ford extended the Yankees' lead to 3-1 in the sixth, homering into the right field pavilion on the first pitch from Kershaw.

Ford's RBI double to deep left field made it 4-1 in the eighth. He went 2 for 3 after entering as a pinch-hitter in the third after shortstop Didi Gregorius got hit by a pitch from Kershaw in the first and later left the game.

Judge, who wears No. 99, launched his 99th career homer in the third, snapping a 1-all tie.

He nearly reached the century mark with a runner on in the eighth. Judge sent a deep fly to center field that A.J. Pollock snagged with the sun in his eyes and his back hitting the wall.

The Dodgers tied it with Joc Pederson's solo shot, his 26th, on Germán's first pitch leading off the bottom of the first.

LeMahieu homered to start the game, sending a 1-1 pitch into center field where smoke billowed from a brushfire located 8 miles away. It was the seventh time Kershaw has given up a homer in the first this season.

In the third, Brett Gardner robbed Corey Seager of a potential three-run homer that would have put the Dodgers ahead. Instead, the Yankees center fielder made a grab at the wall to end the inning.

The series ended quietly after plenty of drama in the first two games.

Nationals 7, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Anthony Rendon homered and had four hits, including an RBI single in the 11th inning, and the Washington Nationals beat the Cubs.

Juan Soto added three hits and Stephen Strasburg struck out 10 in six innings, helping Washington finish off its first sweep of Chicago since September 2012. The Nationals outscored the Cubs 23-10 in a three-game series between the top two teams in the NL wild-card standings.

Kyle Schwarber, Addison Russell and Victor Caratini homered for Chicago, which had won five in a row before Washington rolled into town. The Cubs fell 2½ games behind first-place St. Louis in the NL Central.

Cardinals 11, Rockies 4

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter broke out of his slump with a homer and three hits, Dexter Fowler drove in three runs and the Cardinals cruised past Colorado after a long rain delay.

The streaking Cardinals, who have won seven of eight and 13 of 16, swept the four-game series by a combined score of 31-12. They are a season-high 13 games over .500.

Nolan Arenado and Garrett Hampson homered for the Rockies, who have dropped six of seven. Arenado reached 100 RBIs for the fifth successive season.

Giants 5, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Evan Longoria homered early and hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh inning as San Francisco rallied late again to beat the Athletics for a two-game sweep.

Donovan Solano added four hits and an RBI for the Giants in Bruce Bochy's 4,000th game as a major league manager. Buster Posey struck out four times and grounded into a double play.

Mark Canha homered twice for the Athletics, both off starter Logan Webb. Canha also struck out with the bases loaded to end the fifth.

Oakland remains a half-game behind Tampa Bay for the second AL wild card.

Braves 2, Mets 1

In New York, Josh Donaldson hit two more home runs against the Mets, Dallas Keuchel pitched his best game of the season and Atlanta won its eighth in a row by holding off the Mets.

Braves relievers set an Atlanta record by extending their string to 25 scoreless innings before the Mets scored in the ninth. Mark Melancon got pinch-hitter Joe Panik to ground out with two on to end it.

Twins 7, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, C.J. Cron and Jonathan Schoop homered, Martín Pérez pitched six solid innings and Minnesota beat last-place Detroit to increase its AL Central lead to 3½ games over Cleveland.

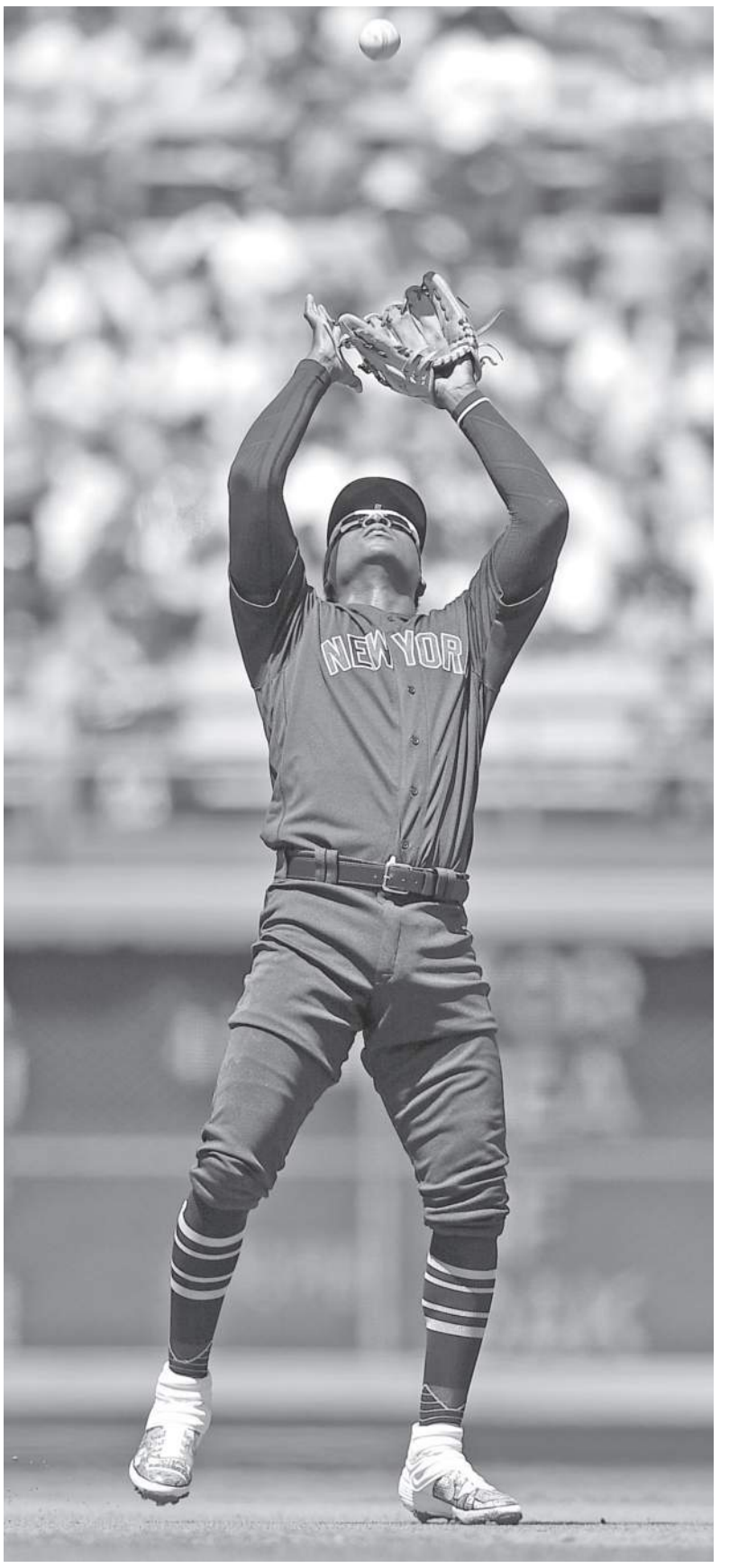
Cron's three-run shot broke open a 2-0 game in the fourth and gave Pérez (9-5) plenty of cushion to work with. The left-hander allowed two runs and five hits for his first win since July 5.

Royals 9, Indians 8, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Ryan O'Hearn led off the 10th inning with his second homer of the game, sending Kansas City to a wild win over the Indians, whose playoff hopes were rocked by losing third baseman Jose Ramírez to a broken right hand.

The Indians tied it in the ninth against Ian Kennedy (1-2) on a solo homer by Francisco Lindor and Franmil Reyes' stunning three-run shot with two outs. Reyes also homered leading off the eighth.

O'Hearn connected off Nick Goody (3-1) as the Royals salvaged a back-and-forth series finale to snap a four-game losing streak.



AP

New York Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius fields a popup fly by Los Angeles Dodgers' Will Smith during the first inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019.

Astros 11, Angels 2

In Houston, Jose Altuve homered to cap a seven-run eighth inning, Framber Valdez grinded through six gritty innings and the Astros beat Los Angeles.

Alex Bregman, Abraham Toro, Josh Reddick and Altuve all drove in runs in the eighth. Altuve's homer was his 24th, tying a career high. Houston has won seven of eight. The club entered the day tied with the Yankees for the best record in the AL at 84-47.

Diamondbacks 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Robbie Ray returned from the injured list and pitched five scoreless innings, Eduardo Escobar and Christian Walker each homered, and Arizona beat the Brewers to avoid a series sweep.

Ray (11-7) had been out since Aug. 14 due to lower back spasms. He allowed three hits, walked four and struck out six in five innings. The left-hander has thrown 18 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings against the Brewers.

Padres 3, Red Sox 1

In San Diego, Manny Machado hit a two-run homer—his first in more than three weeks—and left-hander Joey Lucchesi pitched five decent innings for San Diego in a victory over Boston to avoid a three-game sweep.

Machado, the $300 million slugger, drove a pitch from left-hander Brian Johnson (1-3) for his 27th homer to give the Padres a 3-0 lead. It was the third straight hit off Johnson to open the game.

Marlins 3, Phillies 2

In Miami, Starlin Castro's two-run double in the sixth inning capped a comeback by the Marlins, who rallied against Aaron Nola (12-4) to beat Philadelphia.

Four Miami pitchers combined on a four-hitter and allowed one walk after giving up 10 bases on balls in each of the first two games of the series.

Elieser Hernandez (3-5) gave up two runs in six innings. Ryne Stanek pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his first career save.

Pirates 9, Reds 8

In Pittsburgh, Trevor Bauer had another rocky outing for Cincinnati, allowing eight runs in three innings as the Pirates swept a three-game series.

Since being acquired from the Cleveland Indians prior to the July 31 trade deadline, Bauer (10-11) is 1-3 with a 7.62 ERA in five starts. Seven of the runs charged to him Sunday were earned, and he had two walks and two strikeouts.

Eugenio Suarez's leadoff home run in the ninth inning drew the Reds within a run, but Felipe Vazquez retired the last three hitters for his 23rd save in 25 opportunities.

Orioles 8, Rays 3

In Baltimore, Anthony Santander went 5 for 5 with a homer, Renato Núñez drove in three runs and Baltimore beat Tampa Bay for a split of the four-game series.

Rays opener Diego Castillo (2-7) gave up one run over two innings before Jalen Beeks was roughed up for seven runs and 11 hits in five innings.

Tampa Bay loaded the bases with one out in the fourth before Dylan Bundy (6-13) got Joey Wendle to bounce into a double play, one of four turned by the Orioles.

White Sox 2, Rangers 0

In Chicago, Reynaldo López (8-11) pitched five no-hit innings before leaving with dehydration and flu-like symptoms and Chicago beat Texas.

José Abreu drove in both runs to reach 100 RBIs for the fifth time in six seasons. Alex Colomé worked around a walk in the ninth to earn his 25th save after Aaron Bummer allowed Texas' first hit in the sixth.

Mariners 3, Blue Jays 1

In Seattle, Marco Gonzales (14-10) pitched three-hit ball over seven innings to get his career-best 14th win, Dylan Moore hit a solo homer and the Mariners beat Toronto.

Matt Magill allowed a one-out double to Derek Fisher in the ninth but struck out Teoscar Hernandez and got Brandon Drury to fly out to first baseman Austin Nola in foul territory for his fourth save.

Serena faces Sharapova in first round

NEW YORK—Serena Williams will face a familiar foe in the first round of the U.S. Open this year—former world No. 1 Maria Sharapova.

Williams, No. 8 in WTA rankings, drew 87th-ranked Sharapova in a blockbuster match slated for Monday at Flushing Meadows as the Open's matchups were announced Thursday.

The tennis stars have never met in a U.S. Open match. They faced each other in four Grand Slam championships—the 2015 Australian Open, 2013 French Open, 2007 Australian Open and 2004 Wimbledon—and the 2012 Olympics. Sharapova only won '04 at Wimbledon.

Williams, coming off a Wimbledon final loss to Simona Halep, owns a 19-2 record vs. Sharapova in their overall matchups.

The 37-year-old Williams, in pursuit of her 24th Grand Slam singles trophy, lost last year's U.S. Open final to Naomi Osaka (6-2, 6-4). During the match, she argued with chair umpire Carlos Ramos, who said she was receiving coaching signals from the stands.

Williams has been to three finals since returning from pregnancy in 2018. Her last Grand Slam win came in early 2017 when she was eight weeks pregnant.

Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam champ, is fighting to restore her image after failing a drug test at the 2016 Australian Open and completing a one-year suspension by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

AP

In this Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015 file photo, Serena Williams, left, and Maria Sharapova in action in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

What to know

At first glance, this U.S. Open might appear as unpredictable as any.

From recent injuries to players such as Williams, Naomi Osaka and Simona Halep, to a bit of pre-tournament shakiness from Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, to Rafael Nadal's issues on hard courts, to the group of up-and-coming men's issues at Wimbledon, it's difficult to predict what will unfold at Flushing Meadows over the next two weeks.

And yet this much is clear with main-draw action set to start Monday: If they're healthy, then the expected champions will come from a small group of women that includes Williams, Osaka and Halep and the members of the men's Big Three.

"It seems like the same guys are the favorites again this time around," said Federer, who won five of his men's-record 20 Grand Slam singles championships at the U.S. Open, although the last came in 2008. "It will be a surprise if anybody else won."

Williams has won six of her 23 major singles trophies in New York, most recently in 2014. Since then, she lost in the semifinals twice, missed the 2017 edition because she gave birth and was the runner-up a year ago to Osaka in a match that stood out more for Williams' conflict with chair umpire Carlos Ramos than the tennis itself.

The key for the 37-year-old American, as it's been throughout her return since having a daughter, is her health and fitness, because her serve and other strokes are capable of being just about as dominant as ever. Williams reached the final at three of the past five Grand Slam tournaments; she lost each time, leaving her still just one major singles title away from equaling Margaret Court for the most in the sport's history.

"The years are passing, and she's not getting any younger," said 1994 Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, who coaches 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova. "But she has a shot."

Probably only if her back is fine, though. Williams stopped playing in the final of the Rogers Cup hard-court tuneup this month after having back spasms, then cited that same problem when she pulled out of the following week's tournament.

Williams has withdrawn or retired from all of her non-Slam events in 2019. Unlike other top players, she didn't hold a pre-tournament news conference at the U.S. Open, but both Osaka (left knee) and Halep (left Achilles) declared themselves OK.

Djokovic did the same after having a trainer check on blisters on his right foot while he practiced Saturday. He and Federer went a combined 4-2 in hard-court matches after their historic five-set Wimbledon final. Nadal, meanwhile, has a long history of injury setbacks on a surface that is unforgiving, including retiring from his U.S. Open semifinal last year.

Still, there's a reason one needs to go all the way back to Andre Agassi in 2003 to find someone other than Djokovic, Federer or Nadal seeded No. 1 in New York.

Meanwhile, Coco Gauff appears in her second major after her captivating run to Wimbledon's Week 2 as a qualifier ranked just 313th. The 15-year-old, who is based in Florida, was granted a wild card by the U.S. Tennis Association into singles and doubles (with Caty McNally, a 17-year-old from Ohio).

In reaction to what went on in last year's Williams-Osaka final, the USTA will post code violations—racket abuse, say, or unsportsmanlike conduct—on scoreboards. That might be put to use Tuesday, when 28th-seeded Nick Kyrgios plays Steve Johnson. Kyrgios was fined more than $100,000 for his tantrums during a recent match, hardly his first such sanction. "You've just really got to focus on what you're trying to accomplish, your game plan," Johnson said. "He's going to do what he's going to do."

The tennis world has been waiting for a younger player to challenge the top men. Three guys pegged for that sort of success—Dominic Thiem, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas—all lost in the first round at Wimbledon. How will they rebound at the U.S. Open? Someone else to track: Daniil Medvedev, a 23-year-old Russian whose best Slam showing was a fourth-round appearance at the Australian Open in January. He has been to the finals at three consecutive hard-court tournaments.

Injured Kuzma out of World Cup; US roster set

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—USA Basketball said Saturday that Kyle Kuzma of the Los Angeles Lakers has a left ankle injury that will keep him from playing in the FIBA World Cup.

Kuzma's absence finalized the U.S. roster for the tournament, which starts Aug. 31 in China. The Americans had 13 players and needed to get down to 12 for the World Cup.

Kuzma was initially ruled out of USA Basketball's 98-94 exhibition loss at Australia on Saturday with left ankle soreness.

Kuzma told team officials Saturday morning that the ankle was sore, and it was decided to hold him out for precautionary reasons. Kuzma had 12 points in the Americans' 102-86 win over Australia on Thursday, going 4 of 5 from 3-point range.

But after the game, the team said it was determined that Kuzma's injury would keep him from playing.

The final U.S. roster: Guards—Joe Harris (Brooklyn), Donovan Mitchell (Utah), Marcus Smart (Boston), Kemba Walker (Boston) and Derrick White (San Antonio); Forwards—Harrison Barnes (Sacramento), Jaylen Brown (Boston), Khris Middleton (Milwaukee), Jayson Tatum (Boston); and Centers—Brook Lopez (Milwaukee), Mason Plumlee (Denver), Myles Turner (Indiana).

Star players

The reigning NBA MVP is headed to the basketball World Cup. So are three other members of this past season's All-NBA squad, and so is the starting center from the team that won the NBA championship a couple months ago.

Most of those guys won't be playing for the United States.

The majority of America's best players are sitting out the World Cup, while many of the best international players are not. NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of Greece, fellow All-NBA players Nikola Jokic of Serbia and Rudy Gobert of France, and Marc Gasol of Spain—a significant part of Toronto's run to the NBA title—are among the headliners who won't be in U.S. colors when the tournament starts Saturday in China.

"We're going to China with the goal of a medal," Jokic said.

The Denver star isn't just looking for any medal. He's seeking gold.

And the Serbians would seem to have as good a chance as anyone in a tournament that suddenly looks wide open.

France and Australia are expected to have five NBA players on their rosters for the World Cup, and Serbia is likely to bring four. In all, more than 60 players with NBA experience are likely to participate in the tournament and only 12 of them are playing for the U.S.

"A lot of teams can be in the medal spots and it's going to be intense, very hard for every team to be in those spots," said France's Nicolas Batum—the only player from the last World Cup All-Tournament team in 2014 who is expected to compete in this year's event. "But every team, including ours, is going to fight for it, to play at its best level to try to come back home with a medal."

Antetokounmpo, the Milwaukee star who won NBA MVP this past season, even said earlier this month that he would give back the award if it could be exchanged for a World Cup gold medal for Greece.

"I believe him," U.S. center and Antetokounmpo's Bucks teammate Brook Lopez said. "That's how much he wants this."

Saipan to host Micro Cup in 2021

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Saipan is set to host the Micronesia Cup in 2021 after two cancellations due to major typhoons that have devastated the island.

Saipan Paddling Club president Justin Andrew said that after two years of failing to hold the Micronesia Cup on Saipan, the event will be held on island in October 2021. The last time Saipan hosted the annual outrigger canoe competition was in 2012.

Saipan was supposed to host the event in 2015, but due to Super Typhoon Soudelor, the event had to be cancelled. Three years later, in 2018, the island had to call off the competition again because of Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Saipan was supposed to host the annual Micronesia Cup last year but unfortunately, Super Typhoon Yutu hit us and the tournament had to be cancelled. In 2015, we were also supposed to host the event, but Typhoon Soudelor hit us and we had to cancel. Our next hosting turn will be October 2021 and we look forward to that," said Andrew, who is also the president of the Northern Marianas Paddle Sports Federation.

Andrew added that SPC will be participating in this year's Micronesia Cup that will be held in Palau in October. He said that SPC has 12 paddlers on the team and they have been training tirelessly in preparation for this year's Micronesia Cup.

"The Saipan Paddling Club is training to send men's and women's teams to Palau this year. We plan to send six women and six men," he said.

Also, in preparation for the competition in Palau, the club will be hosting fundraisers. Andrew said that their fundraising events include a 5K run, bake sales, car washes, and a happy hour.

The Saipan Paddling Club 5K Sunset Fun Run is scheduled for Aug. 31. For registration and additional information, visit SPC's Facebook page.

Then in September, SPC will host multiple bake sales and car washes. Flyers will be made available on the club's social media page. For October, the club is planning to have a happy-hour fundraiser. The venue, date, and time will be announced later.

BEIJING

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received it and had a cross header to the right center midfielder Li, who trudged forward and kicked the ball in to tie the match.

Beijing Elite Core continued to be aggressive, particularly He Li, who went on to deliver the last three goals for the winning squad. His first was recorded in the 61st minute when Beijing Elite Core had a free kick and the ball headed at the penalty area with the Beijing 97 goalie attempting to push the leather back, but He Li was there to kick it in after the keeper fumbled.

For his last two goals, Li had them in a span of two minutes. He scored in the 68th when one of his teammates attacked from deep right defense and made the pass to Li, who came from the left center and made the conversion. Then in the 70th minute, Li was at it again, and kicked the ball at almost the exact spot, as he sprinted to chase a long pass from one of his teammates after they stole possession. With Li surging, the Beijing 97 goalie gambled on moving forward to dive and get the ball, but he missed, allowing the former to run after the leather and go for the shot.

After Li's hat-trick, Beijing Elite Core managed to keep its safe distance in the remainder of the game, as it stood its ground on defense to shut down Beijing 97 in the second half.

Meanwhile, the CNMI U18 blanked the M-League All-Stars, 3-0, to remain unbeaten and boosted its chances to top the three-day competition.

The CNMI U18 improved to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record and a victory over Beijing 97 (0-0-2) last night would have given the squad the championship trophy in the inaugural tournament. The M-League All-Star Team (1-0-1) was also scheduled to play last night against Beijing Elite Core (1-0-1).

Just like the Beijing Elite Core, the CNMI U18 managed to get its game going in the second half with John Michael Rojas, Sebastian Manabat, and Ronnel Ocanada scoring in the 46th, 49th, and 51st minute, respectively.

IT&E

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the first quarter after taking a shaky 2 point-lead, 19-17. It was all IT&E after that, as every player the winning squad fielded in was able to contribute to the team's cause en route to the lopsided victory.

IT&E started shifting gears in the second period to grab the lead, 44-28. Center Paolo Rafols stood out for IT&E in the pivotal quarter, as he delivered 8 points. He also drew a lot of help from his teammates, with eight other IT&E players contributing at least one field goal each for their 16-point advantage at the break.

While IT&E's offensive arsenal was in full display in the second frame, it was a different story for MS Villagomez, which had only three players making it to the board and none of them nailed more than two baskets. John Babauta logged 4 points, while Toshi Pangelinan was the only other MS Villagomez player to hit a field goal, as Eli Aughenbaugh's 3 points all came from the foul line.

Aughenbaugh made up for his so-so game in the second period after scoring 6 points in the third canto. However, that was not enough to spark an MS Villagomez's fightback, as IT&E kept throwing jabs in the penultimate quarter to wind down its opponent.

Jaymark De Guzman led IT&E's attack in the third period, as he recorded 9 points. Again, it was not a one-man job for IT&E, as six more players also hit the board in the third frame to stretch their lead to 29, 67-38.

MS Villagomez fell to a much deeper hole in the second to the last quarter, as it still struggled on offense with only John Villagomez and Babauta helping Aughenbaugh. MS Villagomez then showed some promise in the fourth period when several of its players began to hit their targets. However, IT&E matched almost every basket MS Villagomez made for an impressive debut win.

De Guzman top-scored for IT&E with his 15 points, while Marlon De Dios and Rafols chipped in 13 apiece. Five other IT&E players finished with at least 7 markers each.

Aughenbaugh led MS Villagomez after firing 13 points, while Villagomez tallied 10.

IT&E 88—De Guzman 15, Rafols 13, De Dios 13, Peredo 9, Demapan 8, Esdrelon 7, Barbo 7, Aranda 6, Devero 2, Rabasto 2.

MS Villagomez 54—Aughenbaugh 13, Villagomez 10, Babauta 8, Pangelinan 7, Lajara 5, Teregeyo 4, King 3, Ada 2, Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 44-28, 67-38, 88-54.

Tsingtao Boyz keeps undefeated record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsingtao Boyz notched a pair of wins over the weekend to remain unbeaten in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League.

Tsingtao Boyz outclassed Connie's BBQ last Saturday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe, 78-70, and then downed Light & Salt, 86-75, in a make-up game last Sunday for a 5-0 record and the solo lead in the 12-team field.

Against Connie's BBQ, which came into the match unbeaten in four games, Tsingtao relied on its free throw shooting to end the former's winning streak. Tsingtao's last 13 points were made from the foul line with Ramsa Tenepere and Gerald Rivera making four charities apiece and Jet Jandoc converting three. Jonathan Boncano and Jess Pineda each had a split.

Tsingtao scored 16 of 26 markers in the fourth quarter off free throws, allowing the team to make up for a 10-point production in the third. Before slowing down in the penultimate canto, Tsingtao managed to build a 42-34 lead at the break, as Rivera and Ed Pangelinan combined for 15 of the squad's 24 points in the second period.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsingtao's R.J. Giron drives against two Connie's BBQ defenders during the second quarter of their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Court

Tsingtao nearly tripled Connie BBQ's output in the second quarter, as the latter was held to 9 points. The then undefeated Connie's BBQ made only five field goals in the second period, which started with the team on top, 24-18.

After stealing the driver's seat, Tsingtao was threatened in the third canto, as Connie's BBQ moved within 3, 49-52. It was Tsingtao's turn to struggle on offense in the third frame after converting only five baskets, while Connie's BBQ's Mike Esmores nearly matched their foe's total points, as he made 8 markers to bring his team within a field goal.

However, Connie's BBQ failed to overhaul the deficit, as it gave up too many fouls in the fourth period and Tsingtao capitalized to remain unbeaten.

Tsingtao made it five in a row after topping Light & Salt in their match that was originally set for Aug. 10.

Light & Salt, which dropped its first four matches, seemed headed for its first win when it caught Tsingtao off guard, taking a 26-15 lead after the first canto.

However, Tsingtao rallied in the second quarter with a 28-9 scoring surge to grab the upper hand, 43-35. Rivera anchored Tsingtao's recovery after making 11 points in the second period. He added 5 in the third, including a pair of free throws in the third canto, as Tsingtao clung to a 58-57 advantage.

Holding a shaky lead going into the fourth quarter, Tsingtao managed to gain more cushion in the finale when Melvin Demonteverde and Peter Ariar teamed up for the squad's first 13 markers in that period en route to their 11-point winning margin.

ROLLERS

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most points on the team, the only thing on his mind at that moment was to make the one shot that mattered.

"All I was thinking at that moment was to box out, get the rebound, and just make that last shot in. I was really excited when I made that shot, I really wanted this championship, now I got it. I've been playing for four years, this was my first championship," Villarin said.

The Rollers-Ol'Aces finale was a back-and-forth match right from the get-go, as neither team was willing to give in. The first half ended with the Ol'Aces ahead by only a hair, 25-24.

Then in the second half, the game remained close and was tied last at 47-all, before Padayao's split broke the deadlock. However, the Rollers had the last say, thanks to Villarin's basket.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Players and officials of the Ol'Aces gather for a group photo after receiving the U14 championship trophy following their 59-49 win over the Rollers in the 2019 Pacific Amusement/NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Greg Deleon Guerrero had 19 points in the sorry loss for the Ol'Aces.

Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces notched the U14 division crown after besting the Rollers in the first title match, 59-49.

Craig Padayao lifted the Ol'Aces to the championship win after recording 25 points, while DK Eiden chipped in 11.

Nyrel Eugenio also had 25 points for the Rollers, while Merrick Toves and Freddy Pelisamen added 12 markers apiece.

First Game

Ol'Aces 59—Padayao 25, Eiden 11, Atan 8, Santos 7, Kapwich 6, Aldan 5.

Rollers 49 – Eugenio 14, Toves 12, Pelisamen 12, Alvaro 4, Diaz 2, Naraja 2, Macaranas 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-22, 59-49

Second Game

Rollers 49—Villarin 18, King 14, Atalig 8, Lajara 4, Palmes 3, Pangelinan 2.

Ol'Aces 48—Deleon Guerrero 19, Ichihara 8, Padayao 8, Laniyo 6, Castro 3, Soriano 2, Kaipat 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-25, 49-48.

McIlroy joins Woods as 2-time FedEx Cup champ

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Yankees slug 3 HRs to beat Dodgers

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Rollers, Ol'Aces split titles

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Rollers eked out a thrilling 49-48 victory over the Ol'Aces during the U16 division finals match in the 2019 Pacific Amusement/NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Lopsided victory for IT&E

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Marlon De Dios, center, fakes off the defense of MS Villagomez's Joe Guerrero, left, and John Villagomez during the third quarter of their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pre-tournament favorite IT&E lived up to high expectations after pounding MS Villagomez, 88-54, in their debut game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

IT&E's firepower proved to be too much for MS Villagomez, which only managed to keep up with the former in

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Behind at 47-48, after the Ol'Aces' Craig Padayao missed his first free throw and hit the second one, the Rollers had five seconds left to run a make-or-break play. Ervin Villarin did the former, as he got a pass from one of his teammates and drove to the basket for the game-winning shot.

The Ol'Aces sued for time in a last-ditch effort to steal the win and secure the division title, but the clock (two seconds remaining) just did not work to their favor, as they were not squared off for a shot.

Besides hitting the dagger, Villarin also top-scored for the Rollers after firing 18 points. He got help from Steve King and Derrick Atalig, who contributed 14 and 8 markers, respectively.

Villarin was visibly overjoyed by his last shot and said that although he scored the

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A Rollers player, second right, wins the battle for the rebound during their U16 division title game against the Ol'Aces in the 2019 Pacific Amusement/NMI Rollers Youth Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Beijing Elite recovers; CNMI U18 unbeaten

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Beijing Elite Core Club goalie approaches the ball for a save during their game against the CNMI Boys U18 National Team in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Beijing Elite Core Club battled back from its debut loss in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament with an emphatic 4-1 triumph over Beijing 97 United Football Club last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Beijing Elite Core was on target in the second half after struggling in the first and allowing Beijing 97 to draw first blood. The victory in the second match of the night came after Beijing Elite Core dropped a close game against the CNMI Boys U18 National Team during the tournament's opener last Saturday, 3-4.

Chao Li kicked things off for Beijing Elite Core in the second half with his goal in the 47th minute knotting the count, 1-all. Earlier in the 14th minute, Lingyu Yang found the back of the net to put Beijing 97 on top. Beijing 97 kept the shaky lead, as Beijing Elite Core just could not cash in on several attempts in the first half.

The conversion finally came for Beijing Elite Core in the next phase of the game. One of its players went for a long feed and lobbed the ball toward the penalty area. The right center midfielder

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